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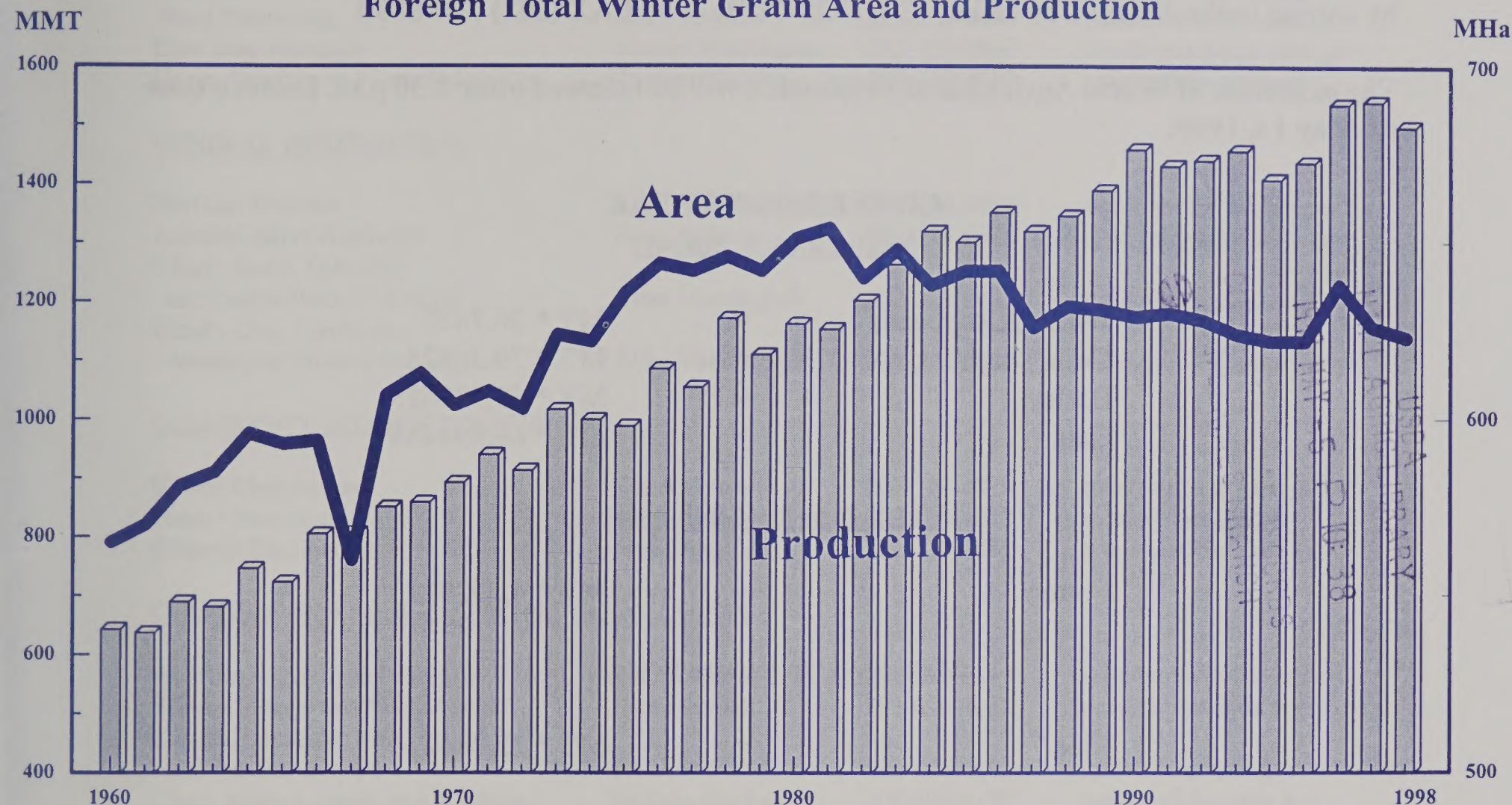
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
WAP 04-99
April 1999

World Agricultural Production

Foreign Total Winter Grain Area and Production



Total foreign winter grain area for 1999/2000 most likely will be below the level achieved last season with regional differences. In the European Union, area is expected to be lower for winter grain crops due to relatively weaker prices, weather difficulties, and increased set-aside. Generally, crop prospects are favorable, but below normal rainfall in Portugal and Spain and excessive rainfall in northern Europe delayed or prevented planting. For Eastern Europe, area is projected lower as rain and snow along with cold weather in late-October and early-November delayed winter grain planting in southeastern Europe. Initial crop prospects are below last season's level, but above average. In Russia, winter grain area is reportedly lower than last season's level, as below-normal precipitation last fall in southern Russia hampered plantings. In Ukraine, winter grain area is expected to match only last season's reduced level due to drought that persisted through the middle of October in the eastern growing regions. For India favorable weather pushed projected area above last season's level, while Pakistan's area is virtually unchanged. In China, based on planting intentions by the State Statistical Bureau, winter wheat area is projected slightly higher. The fall of 1998 and winter of 1999 were among the driest on record in the North China Plain, but irrigation aided winter wheat. Crop prospects are guarded at this time. In the Middle East, grain area is projected to be relatively unchanged and crop prospects are generally favorable in most of Turkey but poor from Syria east to Iran. In Northwest Africa, area is projected below last season's level due to fall dryness in Morocco; however, in Algeria and Tunisia area is projected to be similar to 1998/99. In Canada, winter wheat area is similar to the previous year and crop prospects are favorable. In Mexico, area is projected slightly higher than last season, but irrigation supplies continue to be low.

This report draws on information from USDA's global network of agricultural attaches and counselors, official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source materials, and results of office analysis. Estimates of U.S. acreage, yield, and production are from the USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board, except where noted. This report is based on unrounded data; numbers may not add to totals because of rounding. This report reflects official USDA estimates released in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE-349), April 9, 1999.

This report was prepared by the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division (PECAD), FAS/USDA, AgStop 1045, Washington, D.C. 20250-1045. Further information may be obtained by writing to the division, by calling (202) 720-0888, or by FAX (202) 720-8880.

The next issue of World Agricultural Production will be released after 3:30 p.m. Eastern time on May 13, 1999.

CONVERSION TABLE

Metric tons to bushels

Wheat & soybeans	=	MT * 36.7437
Corn, sorghum, rye	=	MT * 39.36825
Barley	=	MT * 45.929625
Oats	=	MT * 68.894438

Metric tons to 480-lb bales

Cotton	=	MT * 4.592917
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Metric tons to hundredweight

Rice	=	MT * 22.04622
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Area & Weight

1 hectare	=	2.471044 acres
1 kilogram	=	2.204622 pounds

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 National Agricultural Statistics Service at <http://www.usda.gov/nass>
 World Agricultural Outlook Board at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob>
 Economic Research Service at <http://www.econ.ag.gov>
 Joint Agricultural Weather Facility at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf>

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PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS FOR 1998/99

April 1999

WHEAT

----- 1998/99 -----

<u>Country</u>	<u>Current Estimate</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Change from 1997/98</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	MMT	MMT	(%)	(%)	
World	587.1	+0.5	+0	-4	Production is estimated higher due to an increase in the total-foreign category.
United States	69.4	NC	NC	+3	Production is unchanged this month.
Total Foreign	517.7	+0.5	+0	-5	Production is estimated higher as an increase in Iran more than offsets a decrease in Kazakhstan.
Iran	12.0	+1.0	+9	+20	Production is estimated higher due to a report from the ministry of agriculture increasing output.
Kazakhstan	4.7	-0.3	-6	-47	Production is estimated lower as harvested area is reduced. This season, drought covered much of the wheat growing regions.

COARSE GRAINS

----- 1998/99 -----

<u>Country</u>	<u>Current Estimate</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Change from 1997/98</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	MMT	MMT	(%)	(%)	
World	878.1	-0.5	-0	-0	Production is estimated lower due to a decrease in the total-foreign category.
United States	271.6	NC	NC	+4	Production is unchanged this month.
Total Foreign	606.6	-0.5	-0	-2	Production is estimated lower as decreases in South Africa, Colombia, and Ecuador more than offset increases in Argentina, Brazil, and Ukraine.
South Africa	6.4	-1.1	-14	-20	Production is estimated lower mainly due to a decrease in corn yield. Dry weather combined with above-normal temperatures in March reduced soil moisture and stressed the crop.
Colombia	1.1	-0.2	-17	+7	Production is estimated lower as excessive rain and floods resulted in decreases in corn area and yield.

COARSE GRAINS, continued

----- 1998/99 -----

<u>Country</u>	<u>Current Estimate</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Change from 1997/98</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	MMT	MMT	(%)	(%)	
Ecuador	0.3	-0.2	-33	-39	Production is estimated lower due to decreases in corn area caused by unfavorable weather related to the La Niña phenomenon.
Argentina	18.9	+0.4	+2	-24	Production is estimated higher due to favorable weather that increased sorghum yield.
Brazil	33.6	+0.3	+1	+5	Production is estimated higher due to upward revisions in sorghum and barley area and yield.
Ukraine	10.5	+0.3	+3	-32	Production is estimated higher due to official statistics increasing corn yield.

RICE (MILLED BASIS)

----- 1998/99 -----

<u>Country</u>	<u>Current Estimate</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Change from 1997/98</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	MMT	MMT	(%)	(%)	
World	378.4	+0.4	+0	-2	Production is estimated higher due to an increase in the total-foreign category.
United States	6.1	NC	NC	+3	Production is unchanged this month.
Total Foreign	372.3	+0.4	+0	-2	Production is estimated higher due to increases in Brazil and Sri Lanka.
Sri Lanka	1.8	+0.2	+11	+1	Production is estimated higher based on increased area. This year's maha crop (currently being harvested) would have been larger were it not for heavy rains which caused extensive damage to the ripening grain.
Brazil	7.6	+0.2	+2	+31	Production is estimated higher due to excellent weather in the North/Northeast rice growing areas. Yield is estimated at a record level.

OILSEEDS

----- 1998/99 -----

<u>Country</u>	<u>Current Estimate</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Change from 1997/98</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	MMT	MMT	(%)	(%)	
World	293.2	-1.0	-0	+2	Production is estimated lower due to a decrease in the total-foreign category, offsetting a slight increase in the United States.
United States	84.6	+0.0	+0	+2	Production is estimated slightly higher this month due to a small increase in peanuts.
Total Foreign	208.6	-1.0	-0	+3	Production is estimated lower as decreases in Argentina, China, Hungary and Pakistan more than offset increases in Paraguay and Romania.
Argentina	26.5	-0.5	-2	+3	Production is estimated down because scattered dryness, followed by excessive recent rains, especially in central Cordoba Province, adversely impacted soybeans.
China	42.7	-0.3	-1	-2	Production is estimated lower due to a downward revision in sunflowerseed yield.
Hungary	0.8	-0.1	-15	+18	Production is estimated down because of reduced harvested-area estimates for sunflowerseed and rapeseed.
Pakistan	3.4	-0.1	-3	-8	Production is estimated lower due to reduced cottonseed yield, offsetting higher sunflowerseed output.
Paraguay	3.5	+0.2	+7	+10	Production is estimated higher for soybeans and sunflowerseed based on favorable weather.
Romania	1.3	+0.1	+9	+30	Production is estimated up based on a higher sunflowerseed estimate by the National Statistics Board.

PALM OIL

----- 1998/99 -----

<u>Country</u>	<u>Current Estimate</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Change from 1997/98</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	MMT	MMT	(%)	(%)	
World	17.9	+0.0	+0	+5	Production is nearly unchanged this month.

COTTON

----- 1998/99 -----

<u>Country</u>	<u>Current Estimate</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>	<u>Change from 1997/98</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	MBALES	MBALES	(%)	(%)	
World Total	84.7	-0.6	-1	-8	Production is estimated down due to lower production in the total-foreign category, offsetting higher production in the United States.
United States	13.9	+0.1	+1	-26	Production is estimated up due to higher ginning results, indicating a yield increase.
Total Foreign	70.8	-0.7	-1	-3	Production is estimated lower due to decreases in Pakistan, Australia, and India.
Pakistan	6.5	-0.4	-6	-9	Production is estimated lower based on reduced cotton arrivals at gins, resulting in lower-than-expected production.
Australia	3.2	-0.2	-6	+4	Production is estimated down due both to lower area and to lower yield resulting from insect infestation and recent heavy rains in the major cotton growing areas of northeastern New South Wales.
India	12.9	-0.1	-1	+5	Production is estimated down due to reduced market arrivals from the northern states, showing lower than expected production from this region.

TABLE 1

U.S. Crop Acreage, Yield, and Production

COMMODITY	Planted Area			Harvested Area			Yield			Production		
	1996/97	1997/98	Proj. 1998/99	1996/97	Prel. 1997/98	Proj. 1998/99	1996/97	Prel. 1997/98	1998/99 Proj. Mar.	1996/97	Prel. 1997/98	1998/99 Proj. Apr.
	--Million acres--			--Million acres--			--Bushels per acre--			--Million bushels--		
All Wheat	75.1	70.4	65.9	62.8	62.8	59.0	36.3	39.5	43.2	2,277	2,481	2,550
Winter	51.4	48.0	46.4	39.6	41.3	40.1	37.1	44.6	46.9	1,470	1,846	1,881
Other	23.7	22.4	19.5	23.2	21.5	18.9	34.8	29.5	35.4	807	635	669
Soybeans	64.2	70.0	72.4	63.3	69.1	70.8	37.6	38.9	38.9	2,380	2,689	2,757
Corn	79.2	79.5	80.2	72.6	72.7	72.6	127.1	126.7	134.4	9,233	9,207	9,761
Sorghum	13.1	10.1	9.6	11.8	9.2	7.7	67.3	69.2	67.3	795	634	520
Barley	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.2	5.9	58.5	58.1	60.1	392	360	352
Oats	4.6	5.1	4.9	2.7	2.8	2.8	57.7	59.5	60.4	153	167	167
							--Pounds per acre--			--Million CWT--		
Rice	2.8	3.1	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.3	6,120	5,897	5,669	171.6	183.0	188.1
										--Million 480-pound bales--		
All Cotton	14.7	13.9	13.4	12.9	13.4	10.7	705	673	618	18.9	18.8	13.9

TABLE 2
World Crop Production Summary

Commodity	World	Total Foreign	North America		Europe		FSU-12	Asia				South America		Selected Other			All Others			
			United States	Canada	Mexico	Europe Union		Oth. Europe	W. Eastern Europe	China	India	Indonesia	Pakistan	Thailand	Argentina	Brazil		Australia	South Africa	Turkey
---Million metric tons---																				
Wheat																				
1996/97	582.8	520.8	62.0	29.8	3.6	98.5	2.2	26.1	63.0	110.6	62.1	0.0	16.9	0.0	15.9	3.2	23.7	2.7	16.0	46.4
1997/98 prel.	610.1	542.6	67.5	24.3	3.5	94.2	1.0	34.3	80.3	123.3	69.4	0.0	16.7	0.0	14.8	2.4	19.4	2.5	16.0	40.7
1998/99 proj.																				
Mar.	586.6	517.2	69.4	24.4	3.3	103.5	2.1	34.1	56.5	110.0	66.0	0.0	18.7	0.0	10.8	2.2	21.0	1.5	18.0	45.1
Apr.	587.1	517.7	69.4	24.4	3.3	103.5	2.1	34.1	56.2	110.0	65.9	0.0	18.7	0.0	10.8	2.2	21.0	1.5	18.0	46.1
Coarse Grains																				
1996/97	907.2	641.4	265.7	28.2	26.5	103.8	3.7	50.0	52.0	141.3	34.3	6.0	1.8	4.1	18.9	36.6	10.1	10.7	9.9	103.6
1997/98 prel.	880.8	620.4	260.4	25.1	22.8	109.3	2.2	58.6	67.9	114.7	31.0	5.7	1.9	3.9	24.7	32.1	9.5	8.0	8.0	95.1
1998/99 proj.																				
Mar.	878.7	607.1	271.6	26.5	24.7	104.3	3.1	50.7	37.5	135.7	32.5	6.3	1.9	4.5	18.5	33.3	8.3	7.5	10.4	101.5
Apr.	878.1	606.6	271.6	26.5	24.7	104.3	3.1	50.5	37.9	135.7	32.5	6.3	1.8	4.5	18.9	33.6	8.3	6.4	10.5	101.1
Rice (Milled)																				
1996/97	380.4	375.0	5.5	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	136.6	81.3	32.1	4.3	13.7	0.8	6.5	1.0	0.0	0.3	95.6
1997/98 prel.	386.2	380.3	6.0	0.0	0.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.8	140.5	82.3	31.5	4.3	15.0	0.7	5.8	1.0	0.0	0.2	96.0
1998/99 proj.																				
Mar.	378.0	371.8	6.1	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	133.0	81.0	33.0	4.7	14.3	0.9	7.5	1.0	0.0	0.2	93.5
Apr.	378.4	372.2	6.1	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	133.0	81.0	33.0	4.7	14.3	0.9	7.6	1.0	0.0	0.2	93.7
Total Grains 1/																				
1996/97	1870.3	1537.2	333.2	58.0	30.4	204.0	5.9	76.1	115.9	388.5	177.8	38.0	23.0	17.8	35.6	46.3	34.8	13.4	26.1	245.7
1997/98 prel.	1877.1	1543.2	333.9	49.4	26.5	205.3	3.2	93.0	149.0	378.4	182.6	37.2	22.8	18.9	40.1	40.2	29.8	10.5	24.3	231.8
1998/99 proj.																				
Mar.	1843.2	1496.1	347.1	50.9	28.3	209.4	5.3	84.8	94.8	378.7	179.5	39.3	25.2	18.8	30.1	43.0	30.3	9.0	28.7	240.1
Apr.	1843.6	1496.5	347.1	50.9	28.3	209.5	5.3	84.7	95.0	378.7	179.4	39.3	25.2	18.8	30.5	43.4	30.3	7.9	28.7	240.9
Oilseeds 2/																				
1996/97	261.8	187.0	74.8	7.3	0.5	13.0	0.1	4.7	8.5	41.4	27.3	2.5	3.7	0.5	17.5	28.0	1.8	0.8	1.9	27.8
1997/98 prel.	286.3	203.2	83.1	9.2	0.6	15.0	0.1	4.2	9.1	43.4	24.2	2.3	3.7	0.5	25.9	32.3	2.0	0.9	1.9	27.8
1998/99 proj.																				
Mar.	294.2	209.5	84.6	10.4	0.6	15.6	0.1	5.4	9.1	43.0	26.3	2.3	3.5	0.5	27.0	31.9	3.0	1.3	2.1	27.7
Apr.	293.2	208.6	84.6	10.4	0.6	15.5	0.1	5.3	9.0	42.7	26.2	2.3	3.4	0.5	26.5	31.9	3.0	1.3	2.1	27.7
Cotton																				
1996/97	89.6	70.6	18.9	0.0	1.1	1.9	0.0	0.0	6.6	19.3	13.9	0.0	7.3	0.0	1.5	1.3	2.8	0.2	3.6	11.1
1997/98 prel.	91.6	72.8	18.8	0.0	1.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	7.2	21.1	12.3	0.0	7.2	0.0	1.4	1.8	3.1	0.2	3.7	11.8
1998/99 proj.																				
Mar.	85.3	71.5	13.8	0.0	1.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	6.6	20.2	13.0	0.0	6.9	0.0	1.4	1.9	3.4	0.2	3.9	10.7
Apr.	84.7	70.8	13.9	0.0	1.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	6.6	20.2	12.9	0.0	6.5	0.0	1.4	1.9	3.2	0.2	3.9	10.7

1/ Includes wheat, coarse grains, and rice (milled) shown above.

2/ Includes soybean, cottonseed, peanut (inshell), sunflowerseed, rapeseed for individual countries. Copra and palm kernel are added to world totals.

Note: Entries of 0.0 indicate no reported or insignificant production.

April 1999

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 3
Wheat Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	231.01	229.53	226.37	225.92	2.52	2.66	2.59	2.60	582.77	610.09	586.59	587.12	0.53	0.09	-22.97	-3.77
United States	25.42	25.43	23.88	23.88	2.44	2.66	2.91	2.91	61.98	67.53	69.41	69.41	0.00	0.00	1.88	2.78
Total Foreign	205.59	204.10	202.49	202.04	2.53	2.66	2.55	2.56	520.79	542.56	517.18	517.71	0.53	0.10	-24.85	-4.58
Major Exporters	47.44	44.55	44.19	44.17	3.54	3.43	3.61	3.61	167.91	152.68	159.63	159.63	-0.00	-0.00	6.95	4.55
European Union	16.74	17.13	17.07	17.05	5.89	5.50	6.06	6.07	98.51	94.18	103.48	103.48	-0.00	-0.00	9.30	9.87
France	5.02	5.11	5.25	5.25	7.15	6.61	7.65	7.66	35.94	33.76	40.10	40.20	0.10	0.25	6.44	19.06
United Kingdom	1.98	2.04	2.10	2.05	8.15	7.38	7.38	7.55	16.10	15.02	15.50	15.43	-0.07	-0.44	0.41	2.76
Germany	2.59	2.72	2.79	2.79	7.29	7.29	7.21	7.21	18.92	19.83	20.13	20.13	0.00	0.00	0.30	1.51
Canada	12.26	11.41	10.77	10.77	2.43	2.13	2.27	2.27	29.80	24.28	24.40	24.40	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.49
Australia	11.34	10.31	11.58	11.58	2.09	1.88	1.81	1.81	23.70	19.42	21.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	1.58	8.15
Argentina	7.10	5.70	4.77	4.77	2.24	2.60	2.25	2.25	15.90	14.80	10.75	10.75	0.00	0.00	-4.05	-27.36
Major Importers	92.44	93.82	91.05	90.23	2.34	2.67	2.36	2.38	215.95	250.05	214.70	214.42	-0.27	-0.13	-35.63	-14.25
China	29.61	30.06	29.80	29.80	3.73	4.10	3.69	3.69	110.57	123.30	110.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	-13.30	-10.79
FSU-12	47.53	48.28	45.55	44.68	1.33	1.66	1.24	1.26	63.02	80.31	56.50	56.24	-0.26	-0.47	-24.08	-29.98
Russia	25.72	26.10	26.00	26.00	1.36	1.69	1.03	1.03	34.90	44.20	26.90	26.90	0.00	0.00	-17.30	-39.14
Ukraine	5.89	6.51	5.60	5.64	2.30	2.83	2.66	2.65	13.55	18.40	14.90	14.94	0.04	0.25	-3.47	-18.84
Kazakhstan	12.20	11.50	10.00	9.10	0.63	0.78	0.50	0.52	7.70	8.95	5.00	4.70	-0.30	-6.00	-4.25	-47.49
Baltic States	0.52	0.57	0.58	0.58	2.68	2.69	2.61	2.61	1.40	1.55	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-2.91
Eastern Europe	8.73	9.86	9.58	9.60	2.99	3.48	3.56	3.55	26.13	34.35	34.10	34.09	-0.01	-0.03	-0.26	-0.76
Poland	2.48	2.56	2.58	2.58	3.46	3.21	3.69	3.69	8.58	8.19	9.50	9.50	0.00	0.00	1.31	15.95
Romania	1.80	2.35	2.00	2.00	1.76	3.06	2.60	2.60	3.17	7.19	5.20	5.20	0.00	0.00	-1.99	-27.64
Egypt	1.02	1.04	1.05	1.05	5.64	5.60	5.71	5.71	5.74	5.85	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	2.56
Morocco	3.21	2.49	3.10	3.10	1.84	0.93	1.42	1.42	5.92	2.32	4.40	4.40	0.00	0.00	2.08	89.90
Brazil	1.83	1.51	1.40	1.43	1.74	1.58	1.57	1.54	3.20	2.38	2.20	2.20	0.00	0.00	-0.18	-7.56
Other Foreign	65.71	65.72	67.25	67.64	2.08	2.13	2.12	2.12	136.93	139.83	142.85	143.66	0.81	0.57	3.83	2.74
India	25.01	25.89	26.26	26.69	2.48	2.68	2.51	2.47	62.10	69.35	66.05	65.91	-0.14	-0.21	-3.44	-4.96
Turkey	8.45	8.50	8.60	8.60	1.89	1.88	2.09	2.09	16.00	16.00	18.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	12.50
Pakistan	8.38	8.11	8.36	8.36	2.02	2.05	2.24	2.24	16.91	16.65	18.70	18.70	0.00	0.00	2.05	12.31
Mexico	0.81	0.80	0.80	0.77	3.84	4.54	4.13	4.22	3.11	3.64	3.30	3.25	-0.05	-1.52	-0.39	-10.69
Saudi Arabia	0.27	0.34	0.34	0.34	4.53	5.36	5.37	5.37	1.20	1.80	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	1.29	1.39	0.75	0.75	2.10	1.77	2.04	2.04	2.71	2.47	1.53	1.53	0.00	0.00	-0.94	-37.98
Others	21.51	20.70	22.15	22.15	1.62	1.45	1.51	1.56	34.91	29.92	33.47	34.47	1.00	2.99	4.55	15.20

TABLE 4

Total Coarse Grain Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	322.35	310.43	308.50	308.05	2.81	2.84	2.85	2.85	907.15	880.79	878.66	878.14	-0.52	-0.06	-2.66	-0.30
United States	38.11	36.89	36.17	36.17	6.97	7.06	7.51	7.51	265.71	260.43	271.55	271.55	0.00	0.00	11.12	4.27
Total Foreign	284.24	273.54	272.33	271.88	2.26	2.27	2.23	2.23	641.44	620.37	607.11	606.58	-0.52	-0.09	-13.78	-2.22
Major Exporters	23.57	22.53	21.30	21.44	3.06	3.16	3.06	3.01	72.07	71.19	65.25	64.57	-0.68	-1.05	-6.63	-9.31
Canada	8.00	7.59	7.38	7.38	3.52	3.31	3.59	3.59	28.19	25.12	26.50	26.50	0.00	0.00	1.38	5.50
Argentina	4.66	4.67	4.25	4.25	4.06	5.28	4.35	4.44	18.93	24.67	18.49	18.85	0.36	1.97	-5.82	-23.59
Australia	5.20	5.09	4.53	4.53	1.95	1.86	1.83	1.83	10.15	9.47	8.31	8.31	0.00	0.00	-1.16	-12.28
South Africa	4.34	3.94	3.83	3.83	2.46	2.04	1.95	1.67	10.70	8.04	7.46	6.41	-1.05	-14.07	-1.63	-20.23
Thailand	1.36	1.24	1.31	1.45	3.01	3.15	3.44	3.10	4.10	3.90	4.50	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.60	15.38
Major Importers	86.63	86.54	81.58	81.22	2.73	3.04	2.72	2.73	236.67	263.04	221.67	221.91	0.23	0.10	-41.13	-15.64
FSU-12	38.09	38.83	33.88	33.56	1.37	1.75	1.11	1.13	52.02	67.90	37.54	37.94	0.40	1.07	-29.96	-44.12
Russia	24.76	25.19	22.10	22.10	1.28	1.62	0.86	0.86	31.65	40.85	18.95	18.95	0.00	0.00	-21.90	-53.61
Ukraine	5.34	6.50	5.95	5.92	1.78	2.38	1.71	1.76	9.51	15.46	10.15	10.45	0.30	2.96	-5.01	-32.39
Kazakhstan	4.51	3.67	2.44	2.14	0.72	0.79	0.51	0.63	3.24	2.91	1.24	1.34	0.10	8.06	-1.57	-53.97
Baltic States	1.20	1.23	1.23	1.23	2.20	2.25	2.24	2.24	2.65	2.77	2.76	2.76	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.33
European Union	19.64	20.45	19.88	19.85	5.28	5.35	5.25	5.26	103.75	109.33	104.35	104.30	-0.05	-0.05	-5.03	-4.60
Germany	4.11	4.30	4.24	4.24	5.64	5.97	5.75	5.75	23.21	25.66	24.39	24.39	0.00	0.00	-1.27	-4.96
France	3.67	3.99	3.89	3.86	7.07	7.32	7.18	7.24	25.96	29.21	27.96	27.92	-0.04	-0.14	-1.29	-4.41
Eastern Europe	16.36	16.41	16.17	16.16	3.05	3.57	3.13	3.13	49.96	58.58	50.66	50.53	-0.12	-0.24	-8.05	-13.74
Poland	6.24	6.34	6.28	6.28	2.68	2.71	2.73	2.73	16.72	17.21	17.18	17.18	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-0.19
Romania	4.04	3.88	3.90	3.90	2.74	3.86	2.61	2.61	11.06	14.95	10.16	10.16	0.00	0.00	-4.80	-32.09
Czech Rep.	0.76	0.84	0.76	0.76	3.73	3.79	3.54	3.54	2.85	3.19	2.68	2.68	0.00	0.00	-0.52	-16.25
Mexico	10.97	9.24	10.08	10.08	2.42	2.46	2.45	2.45	26.49	22.76	24.70	24.70	0.00	0.00	1.95	8.55
Other W. Europe	0.38	0.37	0.35	0.35	4.74	4.58	4.78	4.78	1.79	1.70	1.67	1.67	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-1.65
Other Foreign	174.04	164.47	169.45	169.22	1.91	1.74	1.89	1.89	332.70	286.14	320.18	320.11	-0.07	-0.02	33.98	11.87
China	29.10	28.05	28.50	28.50	4.86	4.09	4.76	4.76	141.32	114.65	135.65	135.65	0.00	0.00	21.00	18.31
India	32.16	31.02	31.76	31.75	1.07	1.00	1.02	1.02	34.35	30.95	32.47	32.47	-0.01	-0.02	1.52	4.90
Brazil	14.40	12.06	13.19	13.27	2.54	2.66	2.53	2.53	36.60	32.05	33.31	33.61	0.31	0.92	1.56	4.87
Turkey	4.62	4.71	4.68	4.68	2.13	2.13	2.23	2.24	9.85	10.05	10.43	10.48	0.05	0.45	0.43	4.30
Indonesia	3.20	2.90	3.20	3.20	1.86	1.97	1.97	1.97	5.95	5.70	6.30	6.30	0.00	0.00	0.60	10.53
Philippines	2.72	2.37	2.78	2.78	1.55	1.49	1.73	1.73	4.22	3.53	4.80	4.80	0.00	0.00	1.27	36.05
Others	87.84	83.37	85.34	85.05	1.14	1.07	1.14	1.14	100.42	89.21	97.23	96.81	-0.42	-0.43	7.60	8.51

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 5
Corn Area, Yield, and Production
 World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	140.91	135.20	138.12	137.90	4.20	4.24	4.30	4.30	591.16	573.88	593.73	592.49	-1.24	-0.21	18.61	3.24
United States	29.40	29.41	29.38	29.38	7.98	7.95	8.44	8.44	234.52	233.86	247.94	247.94	0.00	0.00	14.08	6.02
Total Foreign	111.52	105.79	108.74	108.52	3.20	3.21	3.18	3.18	356.64	340.01	345.79	344.55	-1.24	-0.36	4.53	1.33
Major Exporters	7.96	7.21	6.95	7.09	3.71	4.24	3.71	3.50	29.54	30.60	25.80	24.80	-1.00	-3.88	-5.80	-18.96
Argentina	3.40	3.18	2.90	2.90	4.56	6.10	5.00	5.00	15.50	19.36	14.50	14.50	0.00	0.00	-4.86	-25.10
South Africa	3.36	2.96	2.90	2.90	3.02	2.55	2.41	2.07	10.14	7.54	7.00	6.00	-1.00	-14.29	-1.54	-20.47
Thailand	1.20	1.08	1.15	1.29	3.25	3.43	3.74	3.33	3.90	3.70	4.30	4.30	0.00	0.00	0.60	16.22
Major Importers	21.66	21.44	21.19	21.14	3.94	4.60	3.90	3.92	85.30	98.64	82.55	82.79	0.23	0.28	-15.85	-16.07
Eastern Europe	7.18	6.91	6.93	6.91	3.63	4.62	3.67	3.67	26.05	31.94	25.43	25.32	-0.11	-0.44	-6.62	-20.73
Romania	3.29	3.03	3.13	3.13	2.92	4.18	2.72	2.72	9.61	12.68	8.50	8.50	0.00	0.00	-4.18	-32.97
Yugoslavia	2.14	2.12	2.12	2.12	3.79	4.59	3.88	3.88	8.10	9.70	8.20	8.20	0.00	0.00	-1.50	-15.46
European Union	4.10	4.26	4.06	4.02	8.50	9.06	8.41	8.51	34.79	38.60	34.15	34.20	0.05	0.13	-4.41	-11.41
France	1.72	1.84	1.80	1.76	8.41	9.10	8.22	8.35	14.43	16.75	14.80	14.70	-0.10	-0.68	-2.05	-12.26
Italy	1.02	1.04	0.96	0.96	9.33	9.79	8.96	8.96	9.55	10.14	8.60	8.60	0.00	0.00	-1.54	-15.16
Mexico	8.23	7.21	7.60	7.60	2.30	2.35	2.30	2.30	18.92	16.93	17.50	17.50	0.00	0.00	0.57	3.34
FSU-12	2.06	2.98	2.54	2.55	2.44	3.59	2.00	2.11	5.02	10.70	5.09	5.39	0.30	5.90	-5.31	-49.65
Russia	0.62	0.85	0.80	0.80	1.78	3.18	1.00	1.00	1.10	2.70	0.80	0.80	0.00	0.00	-1.90	-70.37
Ukraine	0.67	1.35	0.90	0.91	2.74	3.96	2.22	2.53	1.84	5.34	2.00	2.30	0.30	15.00	-3.04	-56.93
Other W. Europe	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	8.96	8.80	8.41	8.41	0.22	0.22	0.19	0.19	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-15.91
Others	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	4.49	4.48	4.41	4.41	0.29	0.25	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-19.12
Other Foreign	81.89	77.14	80.59	80.28	2.95	2.73	2.95	2.95	241.81	210.77	237.44	236.96	-0.47	-0.20	26.19	12.43
China	24.50	23.78	24.25	24.25	5.20	4.39	5.11	5.11	127.47	104.30	124.00	124.00	0.00	0.00	19.70	18.89
Brazil	13.88	11.39	12.60	12.60	2.57	2.71	2.58	2.58	35.70	30.86	32.50	32.50	0.00	0.00	1.64	5.31
India	6.25	6.31	6.10	6.10	1.70	1.72	1.61	1.61	10.61	10.85	9.80	9.80	0.00	0.00	-1.05	-9.69
Canada	1.06	1.01	1.12	1.12	6.98	7.10	7.96	7.96	7.38	7.18	8.90	8.90	0.00	0.00	1.72	23.96
Indonesia	3.20	2.90	3.20	3.20	1.86	1.97	1.97	1.97	5.95	5.70	6.30	6.30	0.00	0.00	0.60	10.53
Philippines	2.72	2.37	2.78	2.78	1.55	1.49	1.73	1.73	4.22	3.53	4.80	4.80	0.00	0.00	1.27	36.05
Egypt	0.88	0.84	0.94	0.94	6.65	7.18	6.74	6.74	5.83	6.01	6.30	6.30	0.00	0.00	0.29	4.83
Zimbabwe	1.64	1.23	1.45	1.45	1.10	1.22	1.31	1.31	1.80	1.50	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.40	26.67
Others	27.78	27.33	28.17	27.86	1.54	1.49	1.52	1.52	42.86	40.84	42.94	42.46	-0.47	-1.11	1.62	3.97

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 6
Barley Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	66.41	65.62	62.04	61.78	2.31	2.36	2.22	2.23	153.52	154.83	137.47	137.66	0.18	0.13	-17.17	-11.09
United States	2.71	2.51	2.37	2.37	3.15	3.12	3.23	3.23	8.54	7.84	7.67	7.67	0.00	0.00	-0.16	-2.05
Total Foreign	63.70	63.11	59.66	59.40	2.28	2.33	2.18	2.19	144.98	146.99	129.80	129.98	0.18	0.14	-17.01	-11.57
European Union	11.38	11.84	11.37	11.37	4.55	4.44	4.57	4.56	51.72	52.52	51.92	51.87	-0.06	-0.11	-0.65	-1.24
Denmark	0.74	0.72	0.67	0.67	5.36	5.40	5.32	5.32	3.95	3.89	3.55	3.55	0.00	0.00	-0.34	-8.67
France	1.53	1.68	1.61	1.62	6.25	6.06	6.63	6.65	9.54	10.18	10.70	10.74	0.04	0.37	0.56	5.49
Germany	2.21	2.27	2.18	2.18	5.47	5.89	5.74	5.74	12.07	13.40	12.51	12.51	0.00	0.00	-0.89	-6.62
Italy	0.36	0.34	0.36	0.36	3.76	3.25	3.62	3.62	1.35	1.09	1.29	1.29	0.00	0.00	0.20	17.98
Spain	3.53	3.71	3.59	3.59	2.72	2.32	3.06	3.06	9.60	8.60	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	2.40	27.91
United Kingdom	1.27	1.33	1.27	1.27	6.14	5.89	5.20	5.11	7.78	7.83	6.60	6.50	-0.10	-1.58	-1.33	-17.02
FSU-12	20.46	21.12	18.41	18.08	1.34	1.62	1.05	1.08	27.46	34.19	19.39	19.46	0.07	0.36	-14.73	-43.08
Russia	11.85	12.60	11.30	11.30	1.34	1.65	0.87	0.87	15.90	20.80	9.80	9.80	0.00	0.00	-11.00	-52.88
Ukraine	3.43	3.70	3.60	3.57	1.67	2.00	1.64	1.65	5.73	7.41	5.90	5.87	-0.03	-0.51	-1.54	-20.75
Kazakhstan	3.60	3.34	2.10	1.80	0.75	0.80	0.48	0.61	2.70	2.67	1.00	1.10	0.10	10.00	-1.57	-58.80
Baltic States	0.81	0.83	0.83	0.83	2.30	2.33	2.33	2.33	1.87	1.94	1.93	1.93	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.52
Eastern Europe	3.34	3.69	3.45	3.45	2.85	3.26	3.02	3.01	9.52	12.03	10.41	10.39	-0.02	-0.24	-1.64	-13.67
Poland	1.13	1.24	1.20	1.20	3.04	3.11	3.00	3.00	3.44	3.87	3.60	3.60	0.00	0.00	-0.27	-6.88
Czech Rep.	0.60	0.65	0.58	0.58	3.77	3.84	3.49	3.49	2.26	2.49	2.03	2.03	0.00	0.00	-0.46	-18.51
Romania	0.50	0.62	0.52	0.52	2.22	3.06	2.40	2.40	1.11	1.89	1.25	1.25	0.00	0.00	-0.64	-33.83
Canada	4.89	4.70	4.27	4.27	3.18	2.88	2.97	2.97	15.56	13.53	12.70	12.70	0.00	0.00	-0.83	-6.11
Other W. Europe	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.21	4.49	4.33	4.72	4.72	1.03	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.72
Norway	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	3.83	3.77	4.05	4.05	0.67	0.66	0.64	0.64	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-3.03
Turkey	3.65	3.70	3.60	3.60	1.97	1.97	2.11	2.11	7.20	7.30	7.60	7.60	0.00	0.00	0.30	4.11
Australia	3.41	3.46	2.96	2.96	2.00	1.86	1.82	1.82	6.81	6.43	5.40	5.40	0.00	0.00	-1.03	-15.98
China	1.30	1.30	1.20	1.20	3.08	3.08	2.92	2.92	4.00	4.00	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-12.50
Morocco	2.43	2.00	2.30	2.30	1.58	0.66	0.87	0.87	3.83	1.32	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	51.06
India	0.82	0.76	0.86	0.85	1.83	1.93	1.95	1.95	1.51	1.46	1.67	1.67	-0.00	-0.30	0.21	14.16
Others	10.98	9.49	10.22	10.28	1.32	1.19	1.20	1.22	14.47	11.31	12.30	12.50	0.20	1.63	1.20	10.60

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TABLE 7

Oats Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	17.67	16.61	15.39	15.33	1.74	1.85	1.65	1.65	30.69	30.81	25.42	25.33	-0.09	-0.35	-5.49	-17.80
United States	1.07	1.14	1.12	1.12	2.07	2.13	2.17	2.17	2.22	2.43	2.43	2.43	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.08
Total Foreign	16.60	15.47	14.27	14.21	1.72	1.83	1.61	1.61	28.47	28.39	22.99	22.90	-0.09	-0.38	-5.48	-19.32
FSU-12	8.21	7.47	6.16	6.16	1.23	1.50	0.99	0.99	10.11	11.23	6.13	6.12	-0.01	-0.16	-5.11	-45.51
Russia	6.93	6.50	5.20	5.20	1.20	1.45	0.88	0.88	8.30	9.40	4.60	4.60	0.00	0.00	-4.80	-51.06
Ukraine	0.48	0.55	0.55	0.55	1.51	1.92	1.36	1.35	0.73	1.06	0.75	0.74	-0.01	-1.33	-0.32	-30.32
Belarus	0.34	0.34	0.30	0.30	2.11	2.06	2.33	2.33	0.71	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baltic States	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	2.04	2.13	2.13	2.13	0.32	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.19
Maj. Foreign Exporters	3.02	2.72	2.63	2.63	2.11	2.05	2.07	2.08	6.37	5.58	5.45	5.49	0.03	0.64	-0.09	-1.67
Canada	1.68	1.50	1.59	1.59	2.59	2.32	2.49	2.49	4.36	3.49	3.96	3.96	0.00	0.00	0.47	13.57
Australia	1.09	0.93	0.77	0.77	1.56	1.70	1.49	1.49	1.70	1.58	1.14	1.14	0.00	0.00	-0.44	-27.86
Argentina	0.25	0.29	0.28	0.28	1.24	1.76	1.27	1.40	0.31	0.51	0.35	0.39	0.04	10.00	-0.13	-24.51
Other Foreign	5.58	5.49	5.69	5.63	2.32	2.27	2.12	2.12	12.93	12.48	12.05	11.93	-0.11	-0.94	-0.55	-4.41
China	0.50	0.45	0.55	0.55	1.20	0.89	1.18	1.18	0.60	0.40	0.65	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.25	62.50
European Union	1.94	1.99	1.92	1.92	3.56	3.34	3.28	3.21	6.89	6.63	6.30	6.18	-0.12	-1.95	-0.45	-6.75
France	0.14	0.13	0.14	0.14	4.41	4.24	4.70	4.77	0.62	0.56	0.64	0.64	0.01	1.42	0.08	14.18
Germany	0.30	0.31	0.26	0.26	5.32	5.16	4.84	4.84	1.61	1.60	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00	-0.32	-20.01
Italy	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.15	2.46	1.98	2.48	2.48	0.35	0.28	0.38	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.10	36.36
Finland	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.38	3.37	3.37	2.59	2.59	1.26	1.24	0.98	0.98	0.00	0.00	-0.27	-21.56
Sweden	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.31	4.32	4.05	3.87	3.65	1.20	1.28	1.20	1.14	-0.06	-5.33	-0.14	-10.90
Eastern Europe	1.16	1.15	1.14	1.14	2.17	2.34	2.21	2.21	2.53	2.69	2.52	2.52	0.00	0.00	-0.17	-6.37
Czech Rep.	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.06	3.24	3.17	3.17	3.17	0.21	0.25	0.19	0.19	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-23.08
Poland	0.63	0.63	0.60	0.60	2.53	2.60	2.50	2.50	1.58	1.63	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-7.98
Yugoslavia	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1.73	1.88	1.80	1.80	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.13
Norway	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.10	4.18	3.90	3.94	3.94	0.40	0.36	0.38	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.02	4.13
Turkey	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.17	1.71	1.77	1.72	1.80	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.31	0.06	24.00	0.03	10.71
Others	1.35	1.29	1.46	1.37	0.73	0.69	0.67	0.67	0.98	0.88	0.98	0.93	-0.05	-5.13	0.04	4.52

TABLE 8
Rye Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	10.52	10.37	10.44	10.42	2.10	2.35	1.94	1.95	22.05	24.39	20.22	20.32	0.10	0.49	-4.08	-16.72
United States	0.14	0.13	0.17	0.17	1.62	1.62	1.78	1.78	0.23	0.21	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.09	44.93
Total Foreign	10.38	10.24	10.27	10.25	2.10	2.36	1.94	1.95	21.82	24.19	19.92	20.02	0.10	0.50	-4.17	-17.25
FSU-12	5.74	5.66	5.47	5.47	1.54	1.95	1.11	1.12	8.83	11.01	6.07	6.11	0.04	0.66	-4.91	-44.57
Russia	4.13	4.00	3.80	3.80	1.43	1.88	0.87	0.87	5.90	7.50	3.30	3.30	0.00	0.00	-4.20	-56.00
Ukraine	0.63	0.70	0.70	0.70	1.75	1.94	1.57	1.64	1.10	1.35	1.10	1.14	0.04	3.64	-0.21	-15.43
Belarus	0.87	0.89	0.90	0.90	2.07	2.36	1.78	1.78	1.79	2.10	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-23.81
Baltic States	0.23	0.24	0.24	0.24	1.98	2.08	2.04	2.04	0.46	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.61
Major Exporter																
Canada	0.16	0.16	0.20	0.20	1.91	1.98	1.95	1.95	0.31	0.32	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.08	24.38
Other Foreign	4.25	4.18	4.36	4.33	2.88	2.96	2.98	3.00	12.22	12.36	12.96	13.02	0.06	0.46	0.66	5.36
Eastern Europe	2.66	2.56	2.59	2.60	2.32	2.32	2.43	2.43	6.16	5.93	6.30	6.31	0.02	0.25	0.39	6.53
Hungary	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1.43	2.00	1.79	1.79	0.10	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-10.71
Poland	2.42	2.30	2.35	2.35	2.34	2.31	2.43	2.43	5.65	5.30	5.70	5.70	0.00	0.00	0.40	7.55
Czech Rep.	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.08	3.19	3.41	3.47	3.47	0.20	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39
European Union	1.32	1.34	1.45	1.45	4.30	4.51	4.33	4.36	5.68	6.03	6.28	6.33	0.05	0.80	0.29	4.86
Denmark	0.07	0.08	0.11	0.11	4.76	5.39	4.76	4.76	0.34	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.05	10.38
France	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4.59	4.40	4.56	4.84	0.23	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.01	6.34	0.01	5.31
Germany	0.81	0.85	0.94	0.94	5.21	5.41	5.10	5.10	4.21	4.58	4.78	4.78	0.00	0.00	0.20	4.26
Spain	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.15	1.74	1.48	1.50	1.50	0.30	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Austria	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	2.96	3.63	3.64	4.29	0.15	0.21	0.20	0.24	0.04	18.00	0.03	14.01
Sweden	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	5.52	5.17	4.57	4.60	0.18	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.00	0.63	0.01	7.33
Turkey	0.15	0.15	0.18	0.15	1.66	1.60	1.39	1.61	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.24	-0.01	-5.20	0.00	0.85
Others	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.14	1.13	1.18	1.05	1.07	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.15	0.01	5.04	-0.02	-12.05

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TABLE 9
Sorghum Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	45.16	41.34	41.10	41.22	1.53	1.40	1.51	1.51	69.20	57.80	61.96	62.45	0.50	0.80	4.65	8.05
United States	4.78	3.71	3.13	3.13	4.23	4.34	4.23	4.23	20.20	16.09	13.21	13.21	0.00	0.00	-2.89	-17.93
Total Foreign	40.38	37.63	37.98	38.10	1.21	1.11	1.28	1.29	49.00	41.70	48.75	49.24	0.50	1.02	7.54	18.08
India	11.57	10.99	11.50	11.50	0.96	0.73	0.98	0.98	11.09	7.98	11.30	11.30	0.00	0.00	3.32	41.57
China	1.29	1.08	1.10	1.10	4.39	3.36	4.09	4.09	5.68	3.64	4.50	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.86	23.63
Mexico	2.32	1.71	2.10	2.10	2.95	3.12	3.14	3.14	6.86	5.34	6.60	6.60	0.00	0.00	1.26	23.57
Nigeria	6.45	6.50	6.60	6.60	1.02	1.07	1.11	1.11	6.60	6.93	7.30	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.37	5.34
Sudan	6.60	5.70	5.20	5.20	0.64	0.56	0.87	0.87	4.20	3.20	4.50	4.50	0.00	0.00	1.30	40.63
Argentina	0.68	0.79	0.75	0.75	3.70	4.80	4.00	4.40	2.50	3.77	3.00	3.30	0.30	10.00	-0.47	-12.47
Australia	0.56	0.57	0.68	0.68	2.15	1.87	2.07	2.07	1.21	1.07	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.34	31.46
Ethiopia	1.85	1.45	1.60	1.60	1.08	0.90	1.06	1.06	2.00	1.30	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.40	30.77
Colombia	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.06	3.05	2.77	3.00	2.92	0.29	0.18	0.12	0.18	0.06	45.83	-0.01	-2.78
Venezuela	0.20	0.25	0.24	0.24	2.16	1.55	1.54	1.54	0.44	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-2.63
Egypt	0.14	0.16	0.16	0.16	4.35	4.91	4.97	4.97	0.60	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52
Yemen	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.97	0.96	1.00	1.00	0.37	0.36	0.38	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.02	4.46
Tanzania	0.69	0.63	0.50	0.50	0.87	0.80	0.85	0.85	0.60	0.50	0.43	0.43	0.00	0.00	-0.08	-15.00
Niger	1.50	1.40	1.40	1.40	0.27	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.40	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	0.16	0.13	0.10	0.10	2.20	2.02	2.00	1.50	0.36	0.27	0.20	0.15	-0.05	-25.00	-0.12	-43.40
Thailand	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	5.74	5.69	5.48	5.58	0.98	0.95	1.01	1.03	5.62	5.40	5.56	5.75	0.19	3.41	0.35	6.54

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TABLE 10
Rice Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield (Rough)				Production (Milled)				Change in Production			
	1996/97		1997/98		1996/97		1997/98		1996/97		1997/98		1998/99 Proj.		From last month	
	Prel.	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	Prel.	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	Prel.	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1998/99 Proj.	Apr.	From last month	From last year
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	149.77	150.59	149.00	149.08	3.76	3.79	3.76	3.76	380.42	386.23	377.96	378.39	378.39		0.43	0.11
United States	1.14	1.26	1.34	1.34	6.86	6.61	6.36	6.36	5.46	5.98	6.14	6.14	6.14		0.00	0.00
Total Foreign	148.64	149.33	147.65	147.74	3.74	3.77	3.73	3.74	374.96	380.26	371.82	372.25	372.25		0.43	0.12
Major Exporters	24.16	24.78	24.39	24.39	2.90	2.96	2.98	2.98	44.97	47.15	46.75	46.75	46.75		0.00	0.00
Vietnam	7.04	7.37	7.20	7.20	3.87	3.88	3.89	3.89	18.00	18.87	18.50	18.50	18.50		0.00	0.00
Thailand	9.27	9.60	9.21	9.21	2.23	2.38	2.35	2.35	13.66	15.05	14.30	14.30	14.30		0.00	0.00
Burma	5.60	5.49	5.60	5.60	2.77	2.80	2.86	2.86	9.00	8.90	9.30	9.30	9.30		0.00	0.00
Pakistan	2.25	2.32	2.38	2.38	2.87	2.81	2.94	2.94	4.31	4.33	4.65	4.65	4.65		0.00	0.00
Major Importers	15.69	16.13	15.86	15.87	4.13	3.97	4.15	4.16	43.31	42.79	43.87	43.95	43.95		0.08	0.19
Indonesia	11.14	11.61	11.40	11.40	4.43	4.17	4.45	4.45	32.08	31.50	33.00	33.00	33.00		0.00	0.00
South Korea	1.05	1.05	1.06	1.06	6.78	7.00	6.51	6.51	5.32	5.45	5.10	5.10	5.10		0.00	0.00
European Union	0.43	0.42	0.41	0.42	6.10	6.37	6.10	6.15	1.71	1.80	1.61	1.69	1.69		0.08	5.22
Iran	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	4.00	4.00	4.38	4.38	1.60	1.60	1.75	1.75	1.75		0.00	0.00
Nigeria	1.66	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.96	1.87	1.87	1.87	1.95	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85		0.00	0.00
Other Foreign	108.79	108.42	107.41	107.48	4.12	4.19	4.10	4.11	286.67	290.32	281.20	281.55	281.55		0.35	0.12
China	31.41	31.77	31.10	31.10	6.21	6.32	6.11	6.11	136.57	140.49	133.00	133.00	133.00		0.00	0.00
India	43.28	43.42	42.70	42.70	2.82	2.84	2.85	2.85	81.31	82.30	81.00	81.00	81.00		0.00	0.00
Bangladesh	10.41	10.26	9.98	9.98	2.72	2.76	2.68	2.68	18.88	18.86	17.80	17.80	17.80		0.00	0.00
Japan	1.98	1.95	1.80	1.80	6.54	6.42	6.22	6.22	9.41	9.12	8.15	8.15	8.15		0.00	0.00
Brazil	3.48	3.20	3.83	3.83	2.73	2.66	2.86	2.92	6.46	5.78	7.45	7.60	7.60		0.15	2.01
Philippines	3.91	3.50	3.60	3.60	2.86	2.85	2.84	2.84	7.27	6.49	6.65	6.65	6.65		0.00	0.00
Egypt	0.59	0.63	0.50	0.50	8.29	8.39	8.93	8.93	2.99	3.59	3.06	3.06	3.06		0.00	0.00
Taiwan	0.35	0.36	0.36	0.36	5.55	5.61	5.20	5.20	1.42	1.46	1.33	1.33	1.33		0.00	0.00
FSU-12	0.51	0.51	0.52	0.51	2.53	2.40	2.40	2.40	0.83	0.79	0.80	0.80	0.80		-0.00	-0.37
Russia	0.17	0.16	0.16	0.16	2.36	2.07	2.07	2.07	0.25	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22		0.00	0.00
Australia	0.17	0.14	0.15	0.15	8.36	9.41	8.88	8.88	0.99	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.97		0.00	0.00
Others	12.71	12.68	12.87	12.94	3.03	3.04	2.98	2.99	20.53	20.47	20.99	21.19	21.19		0.20	0.96
															0.72	3.51

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 11

Total Oilseed Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World Total 1/ Total Foreign 1/ Copra Palm Kernel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	261.75	286.34	294.15	293.20	-0.95	-0.32	6.86	2.40
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	187.00	203.25	209.53	208.57	-0.96	-0.46	5.33	2.62
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.97	5.70	5.18	5.18	-0.00	-0.10	-0.53	-9.27
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.33	5.20	5.51	5.42	-0.09	-1.63	0.22	4.25
Major Oilseeds 2/ United States 2/	159.23 32.56	166.35 35.35	171.99 35.44	172.19 35.44	1.57 2.30	1.66 2.35	1.65 2.39	1.64 2.39	250.46 74.76	275.44 83.10	283.46 84.62	282.61 84.63	-0.85 0.01	-0.30 0.02	7.17 1.54	2.60 1.85
Foreign Oilseeds 2/ South America Brazil Argentina Paraguay China India European Union France Italy Germany Spain United Kingdom FSU-12 Russia Ukraine Uzbekistan Turkmenistan	126.67 25.27 12.61 10.26 1.38 23.23 30.79 5.84 1.87 0.58 0.90 1.17 0.41 9.75 4.55 2.07 1.49 0.45 4.35	131.00 28.04 13.97 11.54 1.47 23.76 30.43 6.09 1.96 0.75 0.95 1.14 0.47 9.25 4.10 2.04 1.48 0.45 5.98	136.55 28.51 13.82 12.19 1.40 23.90 32.17 6.40 1.99 0.81 1.04 1.18 0.53 10.01 4.69 2.14 1.50 0.48 6.47	136.75 28.58 13.82 12.19 1.48 23.92 32.17 6.40 1.99 0.81 1.04 1.18 0.53 10.31 4.69 2.44 1.50 0.48 6.47	1.39 1.98 2.22 1.70 2.13 1.78 0.89 2.22 2.73 2.56 2.51 1.17 3.41 0.87 0.69 1.04 1.35 0.58 1.68	1.47 2.25 2.31 2.24 2.18 1.83 0.80 2.47 2.88 2.47 3.11 1.42 3.23 0.98 0.78 1.16 1.55 0.82 1.54	1.46 2.25 2.31 2.21 2.35 1.80 0.82 2.43 2.88 2.54 3.27 1.13 2.96 0.91 0.72 1.10 1.33 0.87 1.61	1.45 2.23 2.31 2.17 2.38 1.78 0.82 2.43 2.88 2.54 3.22 1.13 2.96 0.88 0.72 0.95 1.33 0.87 1.61	175.70 49.93 27.95 17.46 2.93 41.45 27.28 12.95 5.10 1.49 2.26 1.38 1.41 8.46 3.15 2.16 2.01 0.26 7.28	192.34 63.13 32.33 25.85 3.21 43.41 24.22 15.04 5.66 1.84 2.96 1.62 1.53 9.10 3.18 2.36 2.30 0.37 9.19	198.84 64.02 31.89 27.00 3.28 42.97 26.25 15.55 5.73 2.06 3.39 1.33 1.57 9.06 3.40 2.35 2.00 0.42 10.44	197.98 63.75 31.89 26.50 3.52 42.65 26.22 15.53 5.73 2.06 3.36 1.33 1.57 9.03 3.40 2.32 2.00 0.42 10.44	-0.87 -0.28 0.00 -0.50 0.24 -0.32 -0.03 -0.02 0.00 0.00 -0.03 0.00 -0.03 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	-0.44 -0.43 0.00 -1.85 7.31 -0.74 -0.11 -0.13 0.00 0.00 -0.83 0.00 -0.38 0.00 -1.45 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	5.63 0.61 -0.44 0.65 0.32 -0.76 2.00 0.49 0.07 0.22 0.41 -0.29 0.05 -0.07 0.22 -0.04 -0.30 0.04 1.25	2.93 0.97 -1.36 2.51 9.89 -1.75 8.26 3.27 1.24 11.89 13.73 -17.76 2.95 -0.79 6.85 -1.66 -13.04 12.16 13.55
Canada Indonesia Pakistan Eastern Europe Poland Romania Hungary Turkey Philippines Mexico Others	1.83 3.66 3.05 0.28 0.99 0.57 1.36 0.05 0.38 17.11	1.77 3.52 2.85 0.32 0.84 0.54 1.30 0.06 0.41 17.56	1.76 3.39 3.27 0.45 0.96 0.58 1.35 0.06 0.42 18.85	1.76 3.45 3.19 0.45 0.96 0.50 1.35 0.06 0.42 18.68	1.34 1.00 1.53 1.59 1.31 1.67 1.38 0.87 1.42 0.88	1.31 1.04 1.49 1.88 1.17 1.29 1.45 0.93 1.53 0.88	1.31 1.02 1.65 2.33 1.22 1.66 1.52 0.95 1.48 0.88	1.31 0.98 1.68 2.33 1.32 1.64 1.52 0.95 1.48 0.89	2.45 3.67 4.67 0.45 1.30 0.95 1.87 0.05 0.55 15.10	2.31 3.66 4.25 0.60 0.98 0.70 1.88 0.05 0.63 15.47	2.31 3.48 5.39 1.05 1.17 0.96 2.05 0.06 0.63 16.65	2.31 3.37 5.35 1.05 1.27 0.82 2.05 0.06 0.63 16.61	0.00 -0.10 -0.04 0.00 0.10 -0.14 0.00 0.00 0.00 -0.04	0.00 -2.99 -0.76 0.00 8.54 -14.69 0.00 0.00 0.00 -0.25	-0.00 -0.29 1.10 0.46 0.29 0.12 0.17 0.00 0.00 -0.04 1.14	13.55 -7.82 26.01 76.47 29.69 17.84 9.04 5.66 -0.64 7.34

1/ Major oilseeds plus copra and palm kernel. 2/ Individual countries and regions include soybean, cottonseed, peanut (inshell), sunflowerseed, and rapeseed.

April 1999

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 12

Soybean Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	63.14	69.34	70.59	70.65	2.09	2.26	2.24	2.23	132.18	156.96	158.06	157.75	-0.31	-0.20	0.79	0.51
United States	25.64	27.97	28.66	28.66	2.53	2.62	2.62	2.62	64.78	73.18	75.03	75.03	0.00	0.00	1.85	2.53
Total Foreign	37.51	41.38	41.93	41.99	1.80	2.03	1.98	1.97	67.40	83.79	83.04	82.73	-0.31	-0.37	-1.06	-1.26
Major Exporters	19.20	21.30	21.50	21.55	2.15	2.52	2.48	2.46	41.27	53.69	53.30	53.00	-0.30	-0.56	-0.69	-1.29
Brazil	11.80	13.00	12.90	12.90	2.31	2.42	2.40	2.40	27.30	31.50	31.00	31.00	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-1.59
Argentina	6.20	7.10	7.40	7.40	1.81	2.70	2.59	2.53	11.20	19.20	19.20	18.70	-0.50	-2.60	-0.50	-2.60
Paraguay	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.25	2.31	2.49	2.58	2.64	2.77	2.99	3.10	3.30	0.20	6.45	0.31	10.26
Other Foreign	18.31	20.08	20.43	20.44	1.43	1.50	1.46	1.45	26.13	30.09	29.73	29.73	-0.01	-0.03	-0.37	-1.22
China	7.47	8.35	8.00	8.00	1.77	1.76	1.73	1.73	13.22	14.73	13.80	13.80	0.00	0.00	-0.93	-6.30
India	5.00	5.60	6.10	6.10	0.82	0.96	0.90	0.90	4.10	5.35	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.15	2.80
Canada	0.86	1.06	0.98	0.98	2.52	2.58	2.79	2.79	2.17	2.73	2.74	2.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
Indonesia	1.18	1.09	1.08	1.08	1.24	1.20	1.21	1.21	1.46	1.31	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.46
Eastern Europe	0.20	0.16	0.29	0.29	1.71	2.20	1.75	1.75	0.35	0.36	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.15	41.97
European Union	0.34	0.46	0.53	0.54	3.39	3.44	3.26	3.26	1.14	1.57	1.74	1.74	0.00	0.29	0.17	11.02
FSU-12	0.55	0.46	0.50	0.50	0.62	0.74	0.72	0.72	0.34	0.34	0.36	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.02	6.53
Russia	0.49	0.40	0.44	0.44	0.58	0.69	0.68	0.68	0.28	0.28	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.02	7.14
Ukraine	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.80	1.29	1.00	1.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.11
Mexico	0.05	0.12	0.10	0.10	1.17	1.47	1.50	1.50	0.06	0.18	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-14.29
Thailand	0.26	0.26	0.27	0.27	1.41	1.25	1.30	1.30	0.36	0.33	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.03	7.69
North Korea	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1.23	1.08	1.23	1.23	0.40	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.05	14.29
Japan	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.11	1.80	1.75	1.75	1.45	0.15	0.15	0.18	0.16	-0.02	-9.71	0.01	8.97
Bolivia	0.55	0.63	0.63	0.63	1.83	2.00	1.98	1.98	1.00	1.26	1.25	1.25	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.79
South Korea	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.63	1.56	1.43	1.43	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-10.26
Colombia	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	2.00	2.17	2.17	2.17	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	1.32	1.36	1.40	1.40	0.88	0.90	0.90	0.90	1.15	1.23	1.26	1.26	0.00	0.24	0.03	2.61

TABLE 13

Cottonseed Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	1996/97	Prel. 1997/98	1998/99 Proj. Mar.	1998/99 Proj. Apr.	1996/97	Prel. 1997/98	1998/99 Proj. Mar.	1998/99 Proj. Apr.	1996/97	Prel. 1997/98	1998/99 Proj. Mar.	1998/99 Proj. Apr.	From last month	From last year		

TABLE 15

Sunflowerseed Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	19.60	19.64	21.68	21.99	1.22	1.20	1.21	1.18	23.86	23.57	26.31	26.00	-0.31	-1.17	2.44	10.35
United States	1.00	1.13	1.41	1.41	1.61	1.48	1.69	1.69	1.61	1.67	2.38	2.38	0.00	0.00	0.71	42.69
Total Foreign	18.60	18.51	20.27	20.58	1.20	1.18	1.18	1.15	22.25	21.90	23.93	23.62	-0.31	-1.29	1.73	7.88
FSU-12	6.39	6.06	6.67	6.97	0.81	0.90	0.84	0.80	5.20	5.47	5.63	5.60	-0.03	-0.60	0.13	2.32
Russia	3.89	3.58	4.10	4.10	0.71	0.79	0.73	0.73	2.77	2.83	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	5.97
Ukraine	2.03	2.00	2.10	2.40	1.05	1.15	1.10	0.94	2.12	2.31	2.30	2.27	-0.03	-1.48	-0.04	-1.82
Argentina	2.90	3.25	3.75	3.75	1.86	1.69	1.79	1.79	5.40	5.50	6.70	6.70	0.00	0.00	1.20	21.82
European Union	2.35	2.32	2.26	2.26	1.65	1.75	1.61	1.61	3.89	4.06	3.63	3.62	-0.00	-0.06	-0.44	-10.72
France	0.92	0.90	0.79	0.79	2.19	2.21	2.22	2.22	2.00	1.98	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.00	-0.23	-11.62
Spain	0.99	0.97	1.03	1.03	1.15	1.41	1.07	1.07	1.14	1.37	1.10	1.10	0.00	0.00	-0.27	-19.53
Italy	0.26	0.30	0.28	0.28	1.99	1.67	1.96	1.96	0.52	0.51	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.04	8.06
Eastern Europe	2.14	1.94	2.09	2.04	1.42	1.22	1.36	1.40	3.04	2.36	2.85	2.86	0.01	0.21	0.49	20.85
Hungary	0.48	0.45	0.48	0.43	1.68	1.22	1.67	1.65	0.80	0.55	0.80	0.71	-0.09	-11.75	0.16	29.54
Romania	0.91	0.78	0.82	0.82	1.30	1.10	1.18	1.30	1.18	0.86	0.97	1.07	0.10	10.31	0.21	24.71
Yugoslavia	0.23	0.19	0.21	0.21	1.85	1.64	1.95	1.95	0.43	0.32	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.08	26.58
Bulgaria	0.45	0.45	0.51	0.51	1.09	1.11	1.02	1.02	0.49	0.50	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.00
Czech Rep.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1.95	2.24	2.00	2.00	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-2.13
China	0.69	0.72	0.70	0.72	1.92	1.64	1.79	1.29	1.33	1.18	1.25	0.93	-0.32	-25.60	-0.25	-20.92
India	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.20	0.66	0.55	0.57	0.57	1.32	1.15	1.25	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.10	8.70
Turkey	0.54	0.50	0.52	0.52	1.01	1.30	1.25	1.25	0.55	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	0.46	0.51	0.85	0.83	0.97	1.10	1.00	0.97	0.45	0.56	0.85	0.80	-0.05	-5.88	0.24	42.35
Australia	0.14	0.09	0.17	0.17	1.21	1.07	1.18	1.18	0.17	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.10	104.08
Burma	0.22	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.73	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.16	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.77	0.79	0.82	0.88	0.99	0.88	0.91	0.95	0.76	0.69	0.74	0.84	0.09	12.23	0.15	21.37

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 16
Rapeseed Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.				Prel.				Prel.				From last month			
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	22.14	23.73	25.52	25.51	1.43	1.40	1.44	1.44	31.61	33.26	36.88	36.82	-0.06	-0.16	3.56	10.70
United States	0.14	0.26	0.44	0.44	1.55	1.39	1.63	1.63	0.22	0.36	0.72	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.37	103.94
Total Foreign	22.00	23.48	25.08	25.07	1.43	1.40	1.44	1.44	31.39	32.90	36.15	36.09	-0.06	-0.16	3.19	9.70
India	6.86	6.70	6.60	6.60	1.01	0.74	0.92	0.92	6.94	4.94	6.10	6.10	0.00	0.00	1.17	23.61
China	6.73	6.48	6.70	6.70	1.37	1.48	1.24	1.24	9.20	9.58	8.30	8.30	0.00	0.00	-1.28	-13.34
Canada	3.45	4.87	5.42	5.42	1.47	1.31	1.40	1.40	5.06	6.39	7.59	7.59	0.00	0.00	1.20	18.69
European Union	2.65	2.81	3.10	3.11	2.76	3.08	3.05	3.04	7.33	8.65	9.48	9.46	-0.02	-0.24	0.81	9.33
France	0.87	0.97	1.10	1.10	3.32	3.51	3.36	3.36	2.87	3.40	3.70	3.70	0.00	0.00	0.30	8.82
Germany	0.85	0.91	1.00	1.01	2.52	3.14	3.30	3.25	2.15	2.87	3.30	3.28	-0.02	-0.76	0.41	14.23
United Kingdom	0.41	0.47	0.53	0.53	3.41	3.23	2.96	2.96	1.41	1.53	1.57	1.57	0.00	0.00	0.05	2.95
Denmark	0.11	0.10	0.12	0.12	2.37	2.82	2.75	2.75	0.25	0.29	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.04	12.63
Sweden	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	2.11	1.90	1.98	2.25	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.12	-0.00	-0.80	0.01	5.08
Eastern Europe	0.69	0.74	0.87	0.85	1.83	2.05	2.32	2.35	1.27	1.52	2.03	1.98	-0.05	-2.32	0.46	30.39
Poland	0.28	0.32	0.45	0.45	1.59	1.88	2.33	2.33	0.45	0.60	1.05	1.05	0.00	0.00	0.46	76.47
Czech Rep.	0.23	0.23	0.27	0.27	2.30	2.46	2.64	2.64	0.52	0.56	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.14	24.78
Australia	0.42	0.69	1.17	1.17	1.52	1.26	1.42	1.42	0.64	0.86	1.66	1.66	0.00	0.00	0.80	93.02
FSU-12	0.31	0.27	0.31	0.31	0.70	0.75	0.77	0.77	0.21	0.21	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.03	14.63
Russia	0.17	0.12	0.15	0.15	0.66	0.62	0.67	0.67	0.11	0.07	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.03	40.85
Pakistan	0.32	0.35	0.33	0.34	0.80	0.81	0.85	0.86	0.26	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.01	4.29	0.01	2.10
Bangladesh	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.73	0.73	0.74	0.74	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.63
Others	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TABLE 17
Copra, Palm Kernel, and Palm Oil Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Production				Change in Production			
	1996/97	Prel. 1997/98	1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
			Mar.	Apr.				
	Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
COPRA								
World	5.97	5.70	5.18	5.18	-0.01	-0.10	-0.53	-9.27
Philippines	2.40	2.37	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	-0.57	-24.05
Indonesia	1.93	1.70	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
India	0.65	0.68	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.02	2.94
Mexico	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.87
Sri Lanka	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vietnam	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaysia	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.02	-0.01	-17.24	0.02	166.67
Others	0.55	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.00
PALM KERNEL								
World	5.33	5.20	5.51	5.42	-0.09	-1.63	0.22	4.25
Malaysia	2.63	2.50	2.65	2.56	-0.09	-3.40	0.06	2.44
Indonesia	1.59	1.48	1.62	1.62	0.00	0.00	0.14	9.46
Nigeria	0.26	0.33	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.02	6.06
Cote d'Ivoire	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.41
Colombia	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.01	6.02
Thailand	0.09	0.11	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-23.36
Zaire	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecuador	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.11
Others	0.55	0.57	0.58	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.30
PALM OIL								
World	17.62	16.95	17.86	17.87	0.01	0.04	0.92	5.43
Malaysia	9.01	8.51	8.80	8.75	-0.05	-0.57	0.24	2.84
Indonesia	5.39	5.00	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	10.00
Nigeria	0.60	0.65	0.76	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.11	16.92
Cote d'Ivoire	0.29	0.33	0.34	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.02	4.62
Colombia	0.44	0.42	0.47	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.04	9.67
Thailand	0.40	0.47	0.36	0.36	0.00	0.00	-0.11	-23.40
Zaire	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecuador	0.20	0.23	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.03	11.11
Others	1.19	1.23	1.27	1.33	0.06	4.48	0.10	7.87

April 1999

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 18

Cotton Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		Prel.		1998/99 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	1996/97	1997/98	Mar.	Apr.	MBales	Percent	MBales	Percent
	Million hectares				Kilograms per hectare				Million 480 lb. bales				MBales	Percent	MBales	Percent
World	33.79	33.56	32.80	32.77	577	594	566	563	89.56	91.60	85.29	84.68	-0.61	-0.72	-6.92	-7.55
United States	5.22	5.43	4.34	4.34	791	754	692	698	18.94	18.79	13.80	13.91	0.11	0.83	-4.88	-25.98
Total Foreign	28.57	28.13	28.46	28.43	538	563	547	542	70.62	72.80	71.49	70.77	-0.73	-1.01	-2.04	-2.80
Major Exporters	15.77	15.81	15.53	15.52	667	716	700	692	48.27	51.97	49.95	49.35	-0.60	-1.20	-2.62	-5.04
China	4.72	4.50	4.40	4.40	890	1,021	1,000	1,000	19.30	21.10	20.20	20.20	0.00	0.00	-0.90	-4.27
Pakistan	3.15	2.96	2.90	2.90	506	528	518	488	7.32	7.18	6.90	6.50	-0.40	-5.80	-0.68	-9.41
Sudan	0.28	0.27	0.15	0.15	358	329	363	327	0.46	0.40	0.25	0.23	-0.03	-10.00	-0.18	-43.75
Turkey	0.74	0.72	0.75	0.75	1,055	1,116	1,144	1,144	3.60	3.70	3.94	3.94	0.00	0.00	0.24	6.49
FSU-12	2.50	2.46	2.53	2.53	572	638	570	570	6.57	7.21	6.62	6.62	0.00	0.00	-0.59	-8.18
Uzbekistan	1.49	1.48	1.50	1.50	705	778	668	668	4.81	5.30	4.60	4.60	0.00	0.00	-0.70	-13.21
Turkmenistan	0.45	0.45	0.48	0.48	310	411	435	435	0.64	0.85	0.95	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.10	11.76
Other	0.57	0.53	0.55	0.55	432	436	421	421	1.12	1.06	1.07	1.07	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.94
Egypt	0.39	0.37	0.28	0.28	882	902	816	816	1.57	1.55	1.05	1.05	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-32.26
African Franc Zone	1.91	2.24	2.33	2.33	418	420	378	378	3.67	4.32	4.04	4.04	0.00	0.00	-0.28	-6.48
Southern Hemisphere	2.08	2.29	2.20	2.19	606	620	689	675	5.78	6.51	6.95	6.78	-0.18	-2.52	0.26	4.02
Argentina	0.88	0.80	0.72	0.72	369	367	423	423	1.49	1.35	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.05	3.70
Australia	0.40	0.44	0.55	0.53	1,535	1,523	1,346	1,327	2.79	3.06	3.40	3.20	-0.20	-5.88	0.14	4.47
Brazil	0.70	0.85	0.80	0.80	403	448	517	517	1.29	1.75	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.15	8.57
Paraguay	0.11	0.20	0.13	0.14	429	381	435	428	0.21	0.35	0.25	0.28	0.03	10.00	-0.08	-21.43
Major Importers	0.55	0.55	0.56	0.56	789	861	863	863	1.99	2.17	2.22	2.22	0.00	0.00	0.04	1.93
Other Foreign	12.25	11.77	12.37	12.35	362	345	340	338	20.36	18.66	19.32	19.20	-0.13	-0.65	0.54	2.89
India	9.12	8.83	9.17	9.17	332	302	309	306	13.92	12.26	13.00	12.90	-0.10	-0.77	0.64	5.24
Others	3.13	2.94	3.20	3.18	448	474	430	431	6.44	6.40	6.32	6.30	-0.02	-0.40	-0.10	-1.61

TABLE 19

The table below presents a 17-year record of the differences between the April projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the April projection and the final estimate have averaged 2.4 million tons (0.5 percent) and ranged from -6.8 to 6.5 million tons. The April projection has been below the final 10 times and above the final 7 times.

RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 1997/98 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below Final	Above Final
	Average	Average	Difference			
	Percent	---Million metric tons---			Number of years 2/	
WHEAT						
World	0.5	2.4	-6.8	6.5	10	7
U.S.	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	8	3
Foreign	0.6	2.5	-6.8	6.5	10	7
COARSE GRAINS 3/						
World	0.7	5.4	-14.7	13.3	12	5
U.S.	0.1	0.1	-0.2	1.3	9	3
Foreign	0.9	5.4	-14.7	13.3	12	5
RICE (Milled)						
World	1.2	3.9	-9.0	10.8	14	3
U.S.	0.9	0.0	-0.2	0.1	4	2
Foreign	1.2	3.9	-9.0	10.8	14	3
SOYBEANS						
World	1.6	1.7	-4.0	2.3	10	7
U.S.	1.1	0.6	-1.6	1.8	7	7
Foreign	2.3	1.3	-4.6	2.3	13	4
			---Million 480-lb. bales---			
COTTON						
World	1.1	0.9	-3.0	0.8	13	3
U.S.	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	5	7
Foreign	1.3	0.9	-3.0	0.8	12	4
UNITED STATES			-----Million bushels-----			
CORN	0.1	3	-8	38	1	1
SORGHUM	0.1	0	0	4	0	2
BARLEY	0.4	2	-3	11	8	2
OATS	0.1	0	-2	1	3	1

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-1997/98 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 17 if projection was the same as the final.

3/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

April 9, 1999



1 - UNITED STATES

In March, widespread precipitation fell from the central and southern Plains into the East, benefiting winter wheat and improving pre-planting moisture. Farther north, mostly dry weather in the northern Plains and the Midwest promoted spring fieldwork. In the Pacific Northwest, slightly drier weather eased the spring flood threat following an exceptionally wet winter. Toward month's end, rain reached southern Texas, providing much-needed moisture for spring plantings. In contrast, warm, mostly dry weather depleted soil moisture in the Southwest and Peninsular Florida. Below-normal temperatures prevailed in California and from the southern Plains to the Ohio Valley and Southeast, slowing the development winter wheat and spring-sown crops.

2 - SOUTH AMERICA

In central Argentina, above-normal precipitation in March provided adequate to excessive moisture for second-crop soybeans, but slowed corn and sunflower harvesting. Heavy showers possibly caused some damage to summer crops in southern Cordoba and northern Argentina. Below-normal March rainfall stressed filling soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Early April showers, however, alleviated the dryness. Heavy showers slowed soybean harvesting in Mato Grosso, Brazil, but drier weather during late March and early April favored fieldwork.

3 - EUROPE

Above-normal temperatures promoted the rapid development of winter grains in most of the continent. In Spain, unfavorable dryness in March spread into northern areas, increasing stress on winter grains and newly-sown summer crops. In northern Europe, above-normal temperatures raised soil temperatures for spring grain emergence, while periods of dry weather favored planting. In eastern Europe, below-normal precipitation eased flooding in Hungary and northwestern Romania and helped early spring fieldwork in the Balkans.

4 - FSU-WESTERN

Periods of mild, dry weather in March in Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia favored greening of winter grains and early spring fieldwork. Winter grains remained dormant in the remainder of Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics. A steady rise in temperatures in northern Russia melted a deep snow cover. Since early April, spring grain planting in Ukraine and North Caucasus continued to advance northward, helped by several days of warm, dry weather.

5 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

In Morocco and western Algeria, unseasonably warm, dry weather since March 18 limited moisture for winter grains, advancing through reproduction. In eastern Algeria, periodic showers maintained adequate moisture for winter grain development. In Tunisia, soaking rain in late March reversed a period of prolonged dryness since mid-February, improving prospects for winter grains.

6 - SOUTH AFRICA

The trend of drier- and warmer-than-normal weather continued across the corn belt. However, scattered showers and cooler weather in early March helped to locally stabilize heat-stressed corn. In late March, warm, dry weather benefited maturing summer crops. In Western Cape, periods of heat and dryness maintained elevated irrigation requirements in orchards and vineyards.

7 - EASTERN ASIA

Much needed precipitation fell across the North China Plain during mid-March, benefiting vegetative winter wheat. Moisture will be needed as the crop enters reproduction during mid-April to early May. Near- to above-normal March rainfall provided adequate moisture across the Yangtze Valley and southeastern China for early rice transplanting and winter oilseeds.

8 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

In March, above-normal precipitation continued to slow second-crop grain harvesting and caused flooding along the eastern Philippines. Near- to above-normal rainfall maintained moisture supplies for oil palm across peninsular Malaysia. Below-normal March rainfall aided main-season rice harvesting in Java, Indonesia. Late-March and early-April rainfall increased moisture supplies for rice in eastern Thailand and Vietnam.

9 - AUSTRALIA

Periodic showers kept maturing summer crops unfavorably wet across the east. In early April, locally excessive rain may have damaged open-boll cotton in primary production areas of New South Wales. Elsewhere, widespread, locally heavy rain during mid-March benefited pastures and grazing land in the west and southeast. The rainfall also helped to ease long-term dryness in Australia's southern winter grain belts, although more will be needed in upcoming months to improve planting prospects.

USDA/OCE - World Agricultural Outlook Board

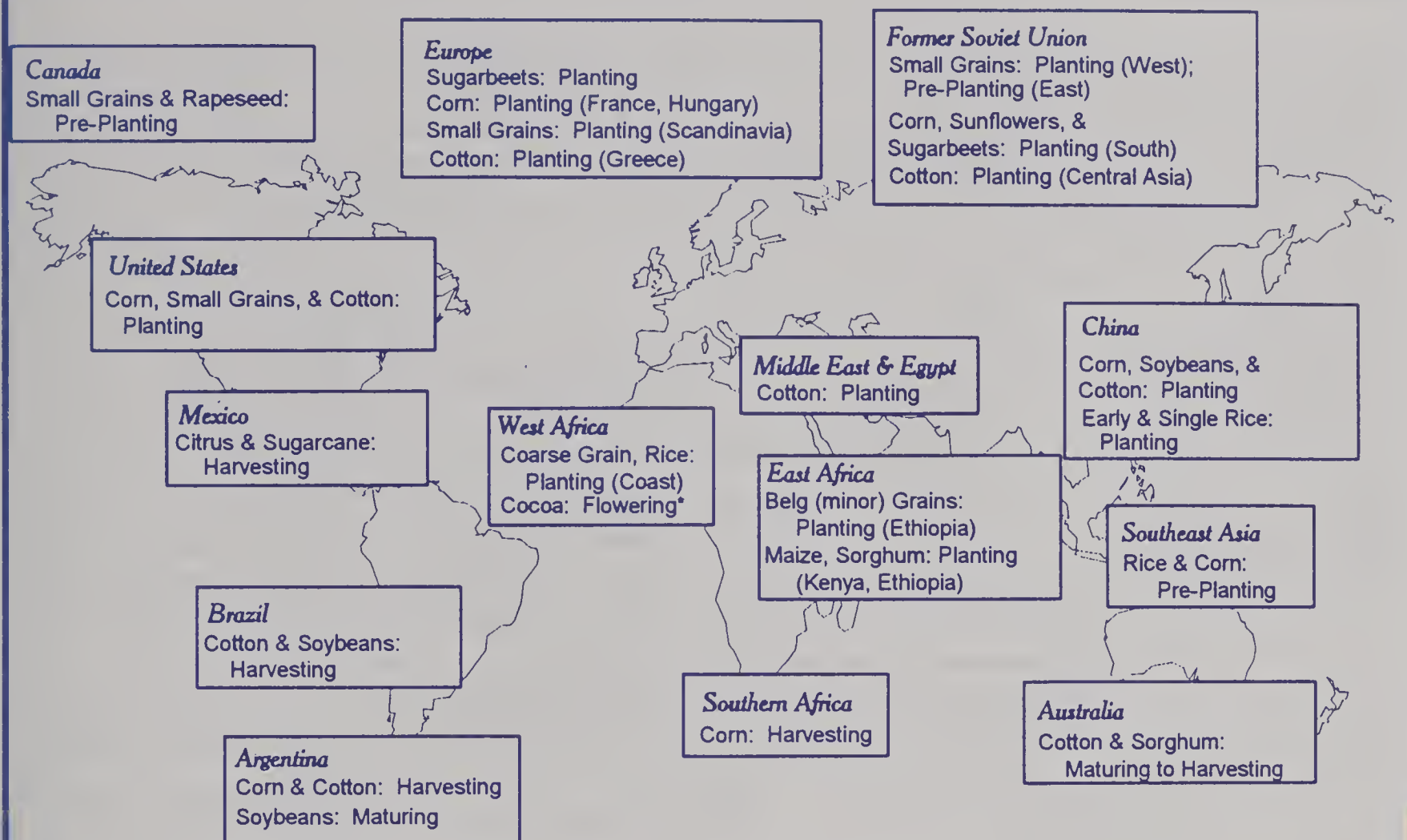
Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

(More details are available in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin.

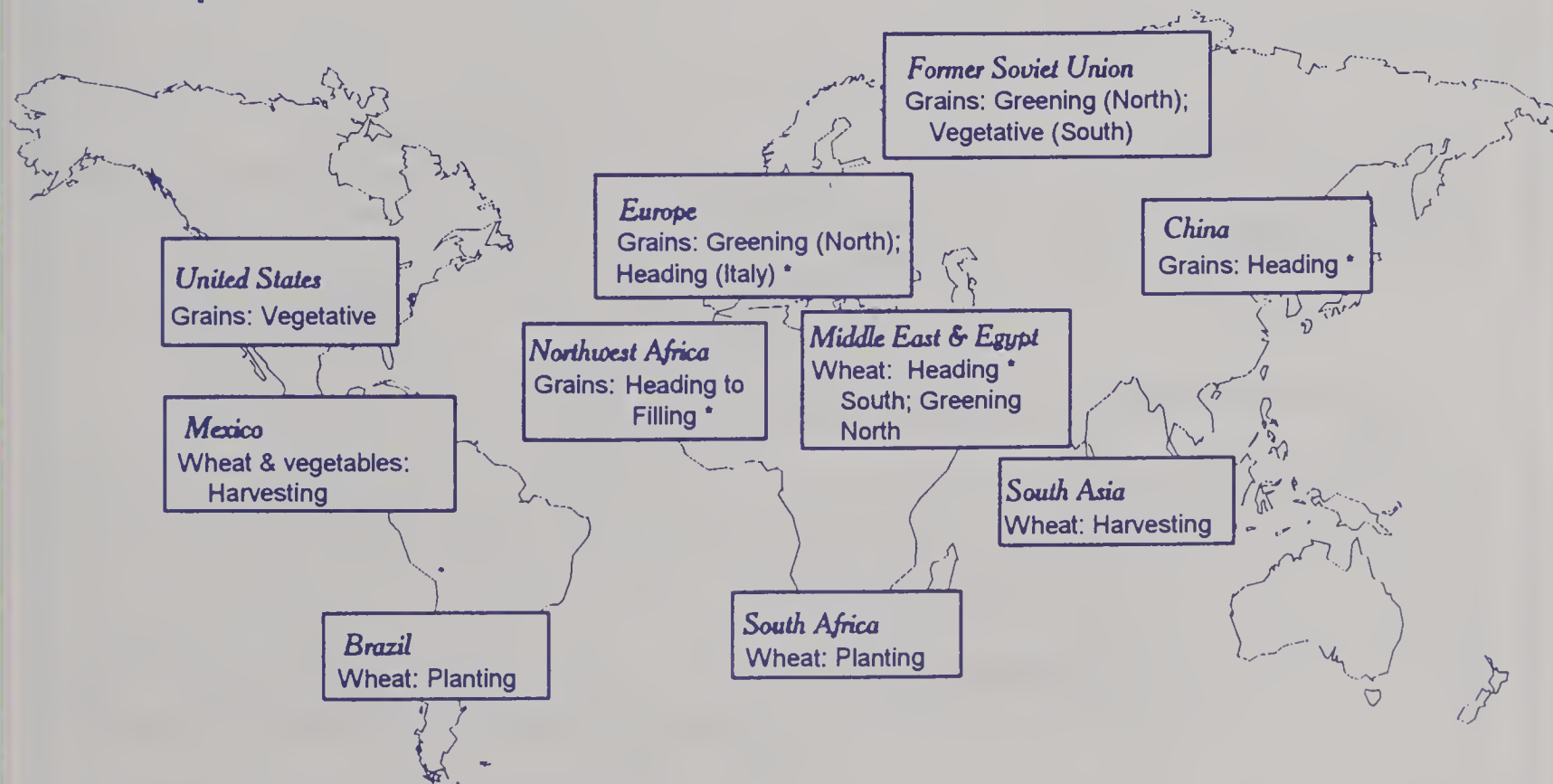
Subscription information may be obtained by calling (202) 720-7917.)

April normal crop calendar

Summer crops



Winter crops



* Moisture / Temperature Sensitive Stage of Development

JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY (NOAA/USDA)

May normal crop calendar

Summer crops

Canada
Small Grains & Rapeseed: Planting

Europe
Corn: Planting
Sunflowers: Planting
Sugarbeets: Planting (Germany)

Former Soviet Union
Corn, Sunflowers, & Sugarbeets: Planting
Small Grains: Vegetative (West); Planting (East)
Cotton: Planting (Central Asia)

United States
Corn & Sorghum: Planting
Soybeans: Planting
Small Grains: Planting

West Africa
Coarse Grain, Rice: Planting (Coast & Sahel)
Cocoa: Flowering*

Middle East & Egypt
Cotton: Planting

China
Corn, Cotton, & Soybeans: Planting
Early Rice: Heading *
Single Rice: Planting

Mexico
Sorghum & Corn: Planting
Citrus & Sugarcane: Planting

Brazil
Citrus & Sugarcane: Harvesting
Cotton & Soybeans: Harvesting

East Africa
Maize, Sorghum: Planting (Kenya, Ethiopia)
Grains: Planting (Sudan)
Small Grains: Planting (Ethiopia)
Belg (minor) Grain: Reproductive * (Ethiopia)

Southeast Asia
Rice & Corn: Planting

Argentina
Corn, Soybeans, & Cotton: Harvesting

South Africa
Corn: Harvesting

Australia
Cotton & Sorghum: Harvesting

Winter crops

United States
Grains: Heading *

Europe
Grains: Heading (France, Romania) *;
Maturing (Spain)
Rapeseed: Flowering (England, Poland) *

Former Soviet Union
Grains: Vegetative (North);
Heading (South)

Mexico
Wheat: Harvesting
Vegetables: Harvesting

Northwest Africa
Grains: Harvesting

Middle East & Egypt
Wheat: Heading * (North) to
Harvesting (South)

China
Grains: Filling

Brazil
Wheat: Planting

South Africa
Wheat: Planting

Australia
Wheat: Planting

* Moisture / Temperature Sensitive Stage of Development

JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY (NOAA/USDA)

WEATHER BRIEFS

SOUTH AFRICA: MOSTLY DRY IN CORN BELT

Rainfall was near to below normal across the corn belt of South Africa in February, reducing moisture available to reproductive and filling crops. In the east, some of the nation's highest yielding areas were hit hard by the dryness, although the lack of excessive heat and favorable long-term moisture reserves mitigated the impact. Further west, timely, albeit lighter-than-normal showers early in the month gave way to warmer, drier conditions by month's end. The February drying trend set the stage for the damage caused by stressful heat in early March. During the week of February 28 through March 6, South Africa was gripped by hot, dry weather, which stressed corn and other summer crops while accelerating crop development. Temperatures averaged 3 to 5 degrees C above normal across the corn belt, with highs hitting the middle 30s at many locations. This was the warmest week of the season and, while most summer crops had advanced past the high moisture and temperature-sensitive reproductive stages of development, corn was still vulnerable to heat and moisture stress. From March 7 to 20, light rainfall and more seasonable temperatures were reported in the eastern summer crop areas. In western crop areas, below-normal rainfall and late summer warmth enhanced crop development and favored maturation and dry down. Scattered showers continued during March 21 to 27 across the eastern half of the country, providing localized drought relief, mainly to sugarcane. The heaviest rain fell from the northern and central sections of the corn belt to the main coastal sugarcane areas. While the rain stabilized immature corn and other summer crops, the moisture came too late in the growth cycle to significantly improve overall yield prospects. From March 28 through April 3, dry and warm weather dominated the region. At this late stage in the growing season, additional rainfall would improve wheat prospects but provide little benefit to other summer crops.

ARGENTINA: MODERATE SHOWERS FAVOR SECOND-CROP SOYBEANS

During March, moderate to heavy showers favored second-crop soybeans, but damaged first crop soybeans and slowed corn and sunflower harvesting in central Argentina. Isolated heavy showers from 100 to 200 millimeters during March 21 - 27, not only slowed harvest but caused flooding in some crop areas. Warm and dry conditions had already stressed summer crops, especially second-crop soybeans in mid- to late-February. Moderate to heavy showers during mid- to late-March, slowed cotton harvest in northern Argentina. Heavy showers during March 28 to April 3 from 80 to 140 millimeters caused cotton harvest delays and raised concern for cotton quality.

SOUTHERN BRAZIL: DRYNESS AFFECTS RIO GRANDE SOYBEANS

During March, a drying trend across Rio Grande do Sul caused stress to filling soybeans. Rainfall averaged 42 percent of normal across the soybean-producing areas of Rio Grande do Sul from March 1 to 27. During March 28 through April 3, moderate showers of 30 to 70 millimeters alleviated dryness for filling to maturing soybeans. The rains increased soil moisture for winter wheat planting. Showers slowed soybean harvesting, especially in Mato Grosso. By the beginning of April, seasonably lighter showers allowed for closer to normal harvesting progress.

PRODUCTION BRIEFS

SRI LANKA: RICE CROP NEAR RECORD LEVEL FOR 1998/99

Sri Lanka's 1998/99 rice harvest is estimated at 1.8 million tons (milled basis), up 0.2 million this month and slightly above last year's production level, but still below the record 1.9 million set in 1984/85. According to the U.S. agricultural counselor in New Delhi, the "yala" crop (harvested in the fall of 1998) is about 17 percent greater than last year's crop, while the "maha" crop (now being harvested) is estimated about 3 percent lower than last year. This year's maha would have been larger were it not for heavy rains which caused extensive damage to the ripening grain. The recent heavy rains, however, have helped replenish most irrigation tanks and wells which augurs well for the about-to-be-seeded 1999/2000 yala crop.

In spite of shortages of labor, growing labor costs, and ethnic violence in the Northeast, the 1998/99 Sri Lankan rice yield is at a record 3.70 tons per hectare (rough basis) due to the greater availability of irrigation, introduction of nitrogen responsive varieties, and increased fertilizer use. While further yield increases are possible, there are constraints such as the high cost of labor; high fuel costs which have slowed farm mechanization; and government fertilizer subsidies that are now confined to nitrogenous fertilizers, resulting in unbalanced nutrient applications.

SOUTH AFRICA: DROUGHT CONTINUES TO PLAGUE CORN

South Africa's corn production estimate for 1998/99 is reduced to 6.0 million tons, down 1.0 million or 14 percent from last month and down 20 percent from last year due to lower forecast yield. The crop was planted under favorable conditions, and above-normal rainfall in December led to expectations of a good yield. However, the weather became increasingly dry in January and February causing stress for corn in the reproductive to grain-fill stage. Rainfall was 50 to 70 percent below normal in many areas during February, and unusually hot temperatures in early March increased the impact of the dryness, particularly in the eastern Maize Triangle. Northern and eastern crop areas received scattered light showers in mid-March which provided local relief from the drought and prevented further yield losses, but other areas remained unfavorably warm and dry through early April. The crop is now maturing and harvest will begin in May.

AUSTRALIA: RAINS LOWER COTTON OUTPUT

Cotton production for 1998/99 is estimated at 3.2 million bales down 0.2 million from last month, but still a record. The area estimate is reduced from 550,000 to 525,000 hectares based on lower seed sales and abandonment due to a February hail storm. In addition, cotton yield is reduced to below average levels because of heavy insect infestation throughout the cotton area and recent heavy rains in the major growing area of northeast New South Wales. This area received from 90 to 130 mm of rain over the April 1-5 period, damaging the crop as 80 percent of the bolls were open. Quality will also be reduced because of the intense rain event.

UNITED STATES: 1999/2000 CROP PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

On March 31, the United States National Agricultural Statistics Service released the Prospective Plantings report for 1999/2000. The report indicated that U.S. corn growers intend to plant 78.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1999/2000, down 2 percent from both 1998/99 and 1997/98. If these intentions materialize, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 1995/96. Expected corn area is down in the upper Midwest, Southwest, Texas, and Southeast due to a shift to other crops. Intended acreage is up slightly in the central Corn Belt, due in part, to land coming back into production after flooding in 1998. Sorghum plantings are expected to total a record low 8.8 million acres, down 9 percent from 1998/99 and 12 percent below the 1997/98 total.

Soybean producers intend to plant 73.1 million acres in 1999/2000, up 1 percent from 1998/99. If realized, this will be the largest planted area for soybeans on record. Of the 30 soybean producing states, producers in 10 states intend to plant more acres this year, while producers in 14 states are indicating fewer acres to be planted in 1999. Six states are unchanged from last year.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 63.0 million acres in 1999/2000. This is down 4 percent from 1998/99 and the lowest level in 26 years. Area planted to Durum wheat is intended to increase to 4.3 million acres, up 12 percent from 1998/99. This will be the largest Durum area since 1982. The 1999/2000 other spring wheat planted acreage is placed at 15.4 million acres, down 2 percent from 1998/99. If realized, this will be the smallest area since 1988/89. Of the total, about 14.5 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat.

All cotton plantings for 1999/2000 are expected to total 13.9 million acres, 4 percent above 1998/99. The Delta shows a 9 percent increase, while the Southeast region expects a 7 percent increase from 1998/99. Producers in Texas and Oklahoma intend to plant 2 percent more acreage than in 1998/99. Although California growers intend to plant 50,000 more acres of American-Pima cotton in 1999/2000, the U.S. acreage is down 7 percent, at 305,200 acres.

PAKISTAN: COTTON GIN ARRIVALS INDICATE LOWER OUTPUT

Cotton production for 1998/99 is estimated at 6.5 million bales, down 0.4 million bales from last month. Cotton gin arrival data reveals a 13 percent lag behind last season's arrivals for the same March through April period. This suggests late-season production losses were greater than expected, though under reporting by gin operators has contributed to the reduction in arrivals. The 1998/99 estimate is 0.7 million bales less than last year and is the lowest production since 1994/95 of 6.3 million bales when the crop was reduced by leaf curl virus and white fly. USDA reduced its initial production estimate of 7.5 million bales over the past three months by a total of 1.0 million bales as reports confirm continued yield losses because of crop disease and insect problems.

UNITED STATES: CROP CONDITION AND PROGRESS

March began with dry, windy conditions in the Great Plains that depleted soil moisture reserves and hindered winter wheat development. The dry weather aided field preparations, and planting was active in southern and eastern Texas and the Gulf Coast States. Some earlier-planted corn and cotton fields emerged along the western Gulf Coast despite soil moisture shortages. Wet and cool weather emerged over the southern and eastern third of the Nation during the second week of the month and prevailed for most of the remainder of the month. The wet weather aided crop emergence, but periodically halted fieldwork in the southern Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and adjacent areas of the Southeast. The rain also boosted winter wheat development in most areas of the southern Great Plains, but vegetative growth was limited by below-normal temperatures. In Oklahoma and the central Great Plains, mid-month snowfall rejuvenated soil moisture levels and curbed insect activity. In the northern Great Plains, dry conditions continued to persist, but winter wheat was aided by mild temperatures and wind, disease, and insect damage remained light. Warm, dry weather aided tillage and fertilizing activities in the western and central Corn Belt. Fieldwork was less active in the eastern and southern Corn Belt during the first half of the month due to muddy field conditions. In the Great Plains and western Corn Belt, small grain seeding progressed well due to mostly dry conditions. Temperatures averaged below normal in most of the Southeast and fell below freezing as far south as northern Florida early in the month. Frost damage to fruit and vegetable crops was limited due to the short duration of sub-freezing temperatures. Mostly dry weather aided fieldwork in the Atlantic Coastal Plains, while fieldwork was slowed in parts of the Ohio and Tennessee River Valleys and Appalachians by a mixture of heavy rain, freezing rain, and snow. In the eastern Corn Belt and Northeast, most precipitation came as snow. Coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest and northern California remained rainy. In inland areas of California, where dryer conditions prevailed, field preparations and planting were active. Gradual warming promoted growth of small grains, winter forages, and sugar beets. A few cotton fields were planted in the northern valleys, but warmer soil temperatures were needed. In southern areas of the State, small grains were irrigated to sustain growth. By the end of the month, winter wheat was heading and cotton was developing squares in the Imperial and San Joaquin Valleys.

FORMER SOVIET UNION: WEATHER AND CROP DEVELOPMENTS

In March, unseasonably mild weather prevailed over Russia, Ukraine, the Baltics, and Belarus. The mild weather pattern melted the unusually deep snow cover in northern Russia and raised soil temperatures to high enough levels for early spring grain planting in southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia. Reports indicated that spring grain planting began about 2 weeks earlier than usual in these areas. Near- to above-normal precipitation fell in Ukraine, North Caucasus, Belarus, and Lithuania, increasing topsoil moisture for spring grain emergence. Below-normal precipitation fell in the Volga Valley and Volga Vyatsk regions in Russia.

Since April 1, several days of warm, dry weather favored rapid fieldwork for spring grain planting in Ukraine and southern Russia. The bulk of spring grains are planted in these areas in April. In Ukraine, reports as of April 2 indicated sugar beet planting began about 1 week earlier than usual. Regarding the winter grain crop, winter wheat resumed spring tillering in most of Ukraine and the North Caucasus. Winter grains remained dormant in northern Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics. Although much above normal temperatures rapidly melted snow cover in northern Russia, continued dry weather lessened the potential for widespread flooding.

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FORMER SOVIET UNION (WESTERN)

AVERAGE DATES FOR EARLY SPRING GROWTH *



WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

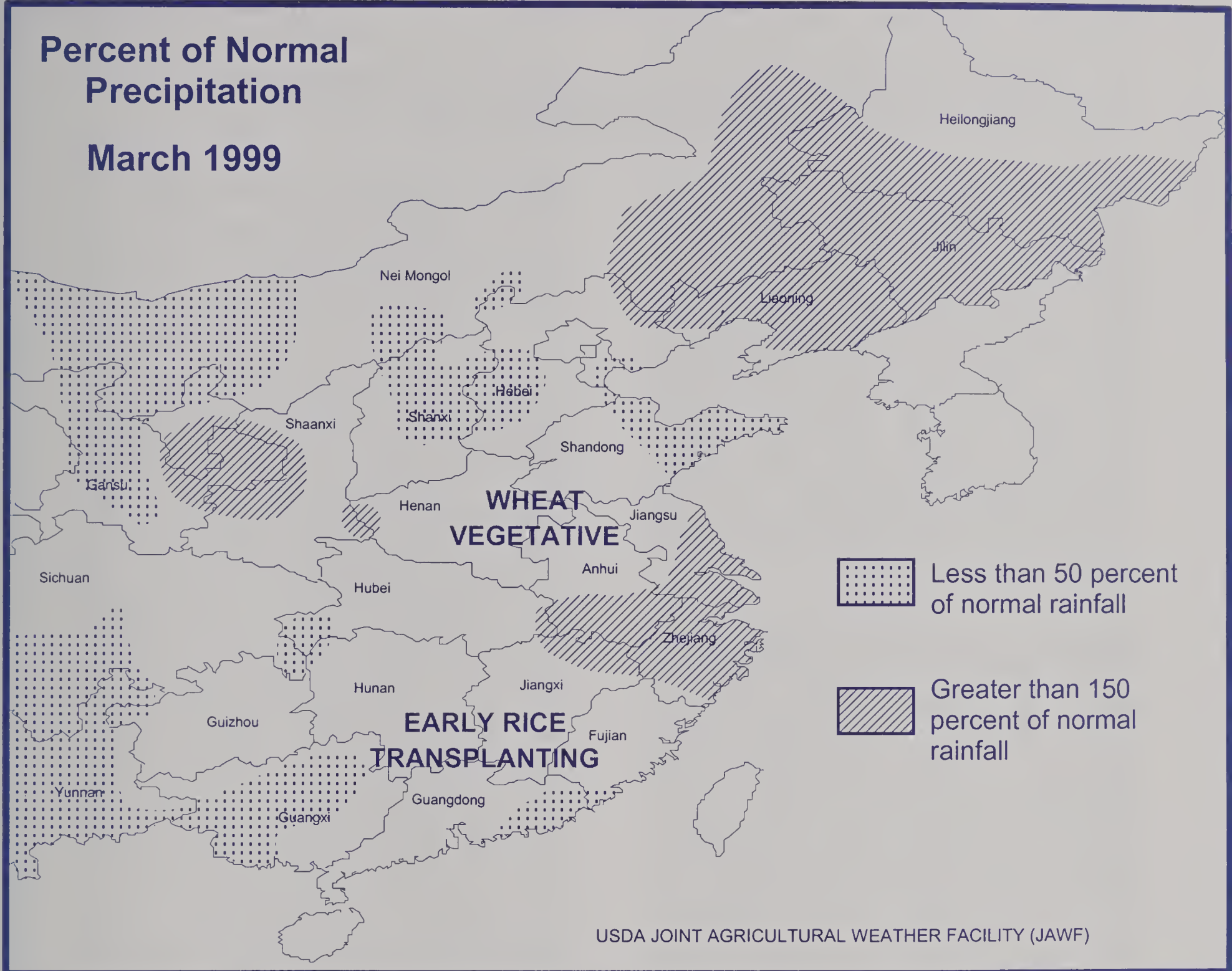
April 9, 1999

- o Periods of unseasonably warm weather since March prompted greening of winter grains in Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia and raised soil temperatures for spring grain planting. At present, moisture conditions are adequate for early crop development.
- o Planting of spring crops began about 2 weeks earlier than usual in these areas.
- o Winter grains in northern Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics remained dormant.

CHINA

Percent of Normal Precipitation

March 1999



WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 9, 1999

- Much-needed precipitation fell across the North China Plain during mid-March, benefiting vegetative winter wheat. Drier weather since then has dried out topsoils. Moisture will be needed as the crop enters reproduction during mid-April to early May. Rainfall has been the heaviest across the southern portion of the North China Plain (southern Henan, northern Anhui, and Jiangsu).
- Near- to above-normal March rainfall provided adequate moisture across the Yangtze Valley and southeastern China for early rice transplanting and vegetative to reproductive winter oilseeds.

FEATURE COMMODITY ARTICLES

1999/2000 WINTER GRAIN PROSPECTS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

This article presents early indications of Northern Hemisphere winter grain prospects outside the United States based on reports from U.S. agricultural attaches stationed overseas and analysis by Washington-based USDA personnel. A special thanks goes to the World Agricultural Outlook Board/Joint Agricultural Weather Facility who have continually supplied FAS with world agricultural weather information and analyses. The first forecast of 1999/2000 area, yield, and production for wheat and coarse grains will be released May 12.

Summary: Total- foreign winter grain area for 1999/2000 most likely will be below the level achieved last season; however, there are regional differences. In the European Union (EU), area is expected to be lower for the winter grain crops (mainly, wheat, rye, and barley) due to relatively weaker prices, weather difficulties, and increased set-aside. Generally, crop prospects are favorable, but below normal rainfall in Portugal and Spain and excessive rainfall in northern Europe delayed or prevented planting. For Eastern Europe, area is projected lower as rain and snow along with cold weather in late-October and early-November delayed winter grain plantings in southeastern Europe. Initial crop prospects are below last season's level, but above average. In Russia, winter grain area is reported to be lower than last season's level as below-normal precipitation last fall in southern Russia hampered plantings. A mild winter has

improved conditions for winter grains. In Ukraine, winter grain area is expected to only match last season's reduced level due to a drought that persisted through the middle of October in the eastern growing regions. The crops went into dormancy poorly established, but overwintering conditions were favorable for winter grains. For India, favorable weather pushed projected area above last season's level. Mild weather across the main northern growing areas boosted crop prospects. In Pakistan, area is reportedly near last season's level and crop prospects are favorable. In spite of excessive rainfall at planting which caused localized flooding, the crop benefitted from timely rains. The crops in India and Pakistan are harvested during April through June. In China, based on planting intentions reported by the State Statistical Bureau, winter grain area is expected to be lower than last season, but winter wheat is projected slightly higher. The fall of 1998 and winter of 1999 are one of the driest on the North China Plain, but irrigation aided winter wheat. Crop prospects are guarded at this time as April and May rainfall are critical in determining yield potential. In the Middle East, grain area is projected to be similar in Saudi Arabia, lower in Syria, but larger in Turkey. Crop prospects are generally favorable in most of Turkey, but poor from Syria east to Iran. In Northwest Africa, area is projected below last season's level due to fall dryness in Morocco, reducing planting intentions. Rainfall in January improved crop prospects in Morocco.

However, in Algeria and Tunisia area is projected to be similar to 1998/99 due to favorable planting conditions. Crop prospects across the region are guarded and timely rainfall is needed for the remainder of the growing season to improve crop conditions. In Canada, winter wheat area is similar to the previous year. Crop prospects are favorable for winter wheat due to a mild winter. In Mexico, winter wheat area is projected slightly higher than last season and irrigation supplies continue to be low.

European Union: Winter grain area for 1999/2000 in the EU is projected to be slightly lower than last season. Yield prospect for winter crops are generally favorable except in Spain and Portugal where prolonged dryness since the fall has negatively affected crops. In northwestern and southeastern Europe, the unseasonably mild weather caused winter wheat to break dormancy one to three weeks early. In the United Kingdom, winter grains are expected to decline sharply because of the increase in the set-aside rate and the wet weather conditions during planting. After the wet fall, normal rainfall returned and above average temperatures prevailed during the winter and early spring. France's winter grain crop area is projected to be down slightly from last year. The planting conditions were unfavorable at the beginning due to wet weather, but mild weather aided late-season field work. In January and February, northern France experienced excessive rainfall; however, rainfall returned to normal levels in March. While the North has excess moisture, southwestern France is doing well and southeastern France is trending dry. Germany's winter grain area is down following well above average precipitation (second wettest fall in the past 49 years) and an

unusually early winter in November that hindered planting. Since then, Germany has continued to have above average precipitation throughout the winter and early spring. The Netherlands had so much rain and flooding during the autumn of 1998 that area seeded to winter wheat is reduced greatly and above average precipitation continues to impede crop development and spring planting. In Spain and Portugal, winter grain area is up from last year's drought reduced level. However, crop prospects for 1999/2000 are guarded since southern Spain and Portugal are again suffering from a dry fall and winter. March rainfall continues to be below normal and southern Spain received much less rain than in the north. Since a large portion of durum wheat is produced in southern Spain, the decline in yield prospects for durum wheat are expected to be greater than those for the soft winter wheat which is grown throughout the country. Italy's winter grain area is expected to increase slightly over last year and the weather has been favorable throughout most of the growing season. However, dry weather during the winter in the Po Valley limited subsoil moisture recharge and additional precipitation will be needed during the growing season to maintain favorable crop prospects.

Eastern Europe: Overall winter grain sowings for 1999/2000 are projected to be significantly lower than last year. Individually, planted area is lower in Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, former Yugoslavia, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. Farmers across the region are planting less area due in part to low prices for last year's crop. In some cases, farmers are still awaiting payment for last year's crops from their governments or from food distributors. Input prices are rising across the

region, so that farmers have difficulty obtaining farm machinery and good quality seeds. Yields are expected to decline this year as farmers are using less fertilizer and pesticide due to increased input costs. In addition, heavy fall rains delayed or prevented planting in many Eastern European countries, and above average precipitation continued throughout the winter. Bulgaria had its wettest fall in the past 49 years, and Romania and Hungary had their second wettest fall in 49 years. In November, temperatures in southeast Europe dropped well below normal, causing the crops to go dormant one to three weeks earlier than usual. Snow melt at the end of winter combined with continued rain caused record flooding in the agricultural lands in northwestern Romania and eastern Hungary. The Czech Republic also experienced well above normal precipitation during the winter. By late March, precipitation in these countries returned to normal levels, allowing the soil to begin drying out. Above average temperatures brought the winter wheat out of dormancy one to three weeks earlier than usual. Slovakia's winter grain area is expected to decrease from last year due to excessive rainfall. At planting, above normal rainfall hampered field work and prevented farmers from achieving their planting intentions. After a mild winter, the soils were saturated and rapidly melting snow cover caused another flood in the same area. The exception to the expected decreases in winter grain areas is Poland. In Poland, winter grain area is projected be about the same as in 1998/99. Favorable fall weather allowed most winter grains to be planted at the optimal time and temperatures and precipitation have been generally favorable to-date.

Russia: The government indicated winter grains were sown on approximately 12.3

million hectares for 1999/2000, down from 12.8 million last year based on agricultural ministry data from Moscow. Drought conditions that continued through the summer and into autumn delayed plantings and hampered crop germination and establishment throughout the prime winter-wheat region of southern Russia (northern North Caucas, southern Black Soils, and Volga Valley) . However, abundant precipitation during the winter and mild early-spring weather stabilized crop conditions and improved yield potential. According to the Federal Weather Center, the agency chiefly responsible for monitoring Russia's winter-crop conditions, winter grains will need to be re-planted on 1.8 to 2.2 million hectares. Fall drought in the south, possible snow mold in the north, and frequent freezing and thawing caused the potential for above normal winterkill. Last season, Russia replanted about 1.6 million hectares, mostly with spring barley. Temperatures plunged to as low as -20 degrees Celsius in southern Russia in early February, but the cold weather did not persist long enough to cause damage. A mild spring has promoted early greening and planting of spring grains is about 2 weeks early, although a recent cold snap in late March slowed planting progress.

Despite the recent improvement in conditions, however, the current outlook for 1999/2000 winter-grain production in Russia is guarded. Farms continue to operate under severe financial constraints and soil fertility has been depleted following years of inadequate fertilizer applications. Herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides are prohibitively expensive, while agricultural machinery and fuel remain in short supply.

Ukraine: Sown winter-grain area for

1999/2000 nearly matched the previous year's level of 6.9 million hectares, according to the agricultural ministry. Excessive dryness in the fall that carried over from the summer resulted in very poor crop establishment in eastern Ukraine; however, in southern and western Ukraine planting conditions were mostly favorable. Beginning on October 20, light to moderate showers brought much-needed moisture to the drought-stricken crop areas. A mild winter followed an unseasonably cold December, providing favorable overwintering conditions for winter grains. Although December temperatures were considerably below average in Ukraine, snow cover was adequate to protect winter grains from damage. Temperatures fell again in February, but only briefly, with little or no damage to crops. Based on assessment reports from the National Weather Center, about 15 percent of winter grains are likely to emerge from dormancy in unsatisfactory condition. Mild early-spring weather promoted early greening and below average winterkill is anticipated.

The winter-grain outlook for Ukraine is better than Russia as poor crop establishment is limited to only the eastern growing regions, but continued below-optimum applications of fertilizer and plant-protection agents will likely hamper winter-grain yield for 1999/2000. Recent reports indicate that 30 percent less fertilizer and 50 percent less pesticides will be made available unless some measures can be found to pay previous debts of private commercial suppliers. Further, no more than 50 percent of all tractors are in working condition this spring. Although sown area matched last year's level, it fell far short of the 8.1-million-hectare target and is nearly 10 percent below the average of the past eight years.

India: Winter grain sowing for 1999/2000 is projected above last season's record level. India's 1999/2000 wheat planting took place during the optimal planting period (mid-October to mid-December) in most states due to favorable soil moisture conditions aided by late monsoon rains. While relative prices of competing crops such as rapeseed and pulses were firmer than wheat at planting, farmers typically prefer to plant wheat on irrigated land because of the guaranteed support price. Post-planting weather conditions were generally favorable. Prolonged foggy weather in major wheat growing areas and localized shortages of phosphatic fertilizers may reduce yields in some areas. Overall, above average wheat yields can be realized due to greater use of certified seed, herbicide availability, and timely rains.

About 80 percent of India's wheat crop is at least partially irrigated, but irrigation facilities are not as widespread in marginal surplus states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where the crop is more dependent on winter rains, which have been sufficient for normal crop development. Regarding grain quality, it is too early to assess the quality of this year's crop as much will depend on weather conditions from now until harvest. A sudden rise in temperature or unseasonable rains could negatively affect the quality of the wheat to be harvested in mid-April.

Pakistan: The 1999/2000 winter grain crop is projected to be similar to last season. According to reports, an estimated 40 percent decrease in the use of phosphatic fertilizers (due to higher prices and late availability), prolonged dry weather in rain-fed areas (which comprise about 16 percent of total wheat

production) and late planting (particularly in areas where wheat follows sugarcane due to the late start of the crushing season) could curb yield prospects this season. On the positive side, the crop was sown more timely than last season, particularly in the rice and cotton regions of Punjab. Also, relatively cool weather through the first week of March helped improve prospects for the late-planted crop.

The Government of Pakistan encourages wheat production and supplies fertilizers, seeds, and irrigation to growers. Input subsidies have declined or been eliminated in recent years as part of ongoing International Monetary Fund reforms. Many observers expect wheat output to remain stable around current levels for the foreseeable future due to competition from alternative crops and problems with salinization, input supply, and seed quality.

China: The 1999/2000 winter grain area is projected smaller than a year ago, but winter wheat is expected to be slightly higher, according to a planting intentions report from China's State Statistical Bureau. Growing conditions were initially favorable in the North China Plain, where about 75 percent of the winter wheat crop is grown. Heavy summer rainfall and mild temperatures boosted soil moisture and aided irrigation supplies. (About 80 percent of the total wheat crop is irrigated to some extent.) However, the weather was unusually warm and dry throughout the autumn and winter, resulting in poor establishment of rainfed winter wheat in many areas. Precipitation averaged less than 25 percent of normal from September 1 to December 31, making it one of the driest time period in recent history. Above-normal

temperatures throughout the winter and early spring, caused the crop to break dormancy one to two weeks ahead of schedule, but about the same time as the last two years. Scattered showers in February and early March improved moisture conditions in central and eastern China, although it remained drier than normal in northern areas through the end of March. Normal temperatures and increased rainfall during the critical months of April and May will be needed to improve yield prospects for the 1999/2000 winter wheat crop, which accounts for approximately 90 percent of China's total wheat crop.

Northwestern Africa: Crop area for 1999/2000 is projected to be smaller than last season, mainly due to reduced area in Morocco. Planted area is expected to decline in Morocco due to the late arrival of rainfall during the Fall of 1998. Typically, farmers start planting winter grains (wheat and barley) after the first significant rain, which come as early as September and finish sowing by mid-January. Since the rains came in early-December 1998, there was not enough time to plant all the fields. As a result, most fields were planted late and an unusually cold winter delayed crop development. However, normal rainfall in January boosted soil moisture reserves. Crop prospects are guarded at this time, pending regular, widespread rainfall that will allow the crop yield to recover to an average level. In western Algeria, late-arriving rains delayed plantings, but adequate precipitation followed and has prevailed to-date. In eastern and central Algeria, near-normal rainfall allowed farmers to sow an area similar to the 1998/99 season. Scattered rainfall in March has provided needed soil moisture and maintain a favorable crop outlook. Tunisian farmers were encouraged

by early-season rainfall and managed to plant an area similar to last year's levels. A drying trend since February slowed crop development and additional precipitation is needed despite recent, light rainfall. The Northwest African winter grain crops typically advance through the critical heading stage during March and April. April weather patterns will be crucial in determining yield for the wheat and barley crops.

Middle East: Winter grain area in Saudi Arabia for 1999/2000 is projected to be similar to last year's level. The Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organization (GSFMO) has reportedly not announced wheat and barley quotas for this production season; however, it is expected to remain unchanged. GSFMO policy over the past few years has been to target wheat production to meet domestic needs only. Locally-produced barley under quota benefits from a government subsidy of about \$268 per metric ton, while the Government-guaranteed purchase price for wheat producers remains at \$400 per metric ton. The crops are primarily grown by small-scale farmers and are 100 percent irrigated. Harvest extends from the end of April into June. For Turkey, winter grain area is projected to be higher than a year ago. Wheat area will most likely expand at the expense of cotton as a result of low cotton procurement prices and decrease in cotton exports. About 40 percent of the wheat crop is grown in Central Anatolia, and the remainder spread throughout the country. Barley area is projected to be similar to last season as an increase in malting barleys are offset by a decline in feed barley demand. The weather pattern has been relatively favorable and should reduce pest problems. Evenly distributed rainfall and near normal temperatures aided crop plantings and

establishment; however, in the southeast dry warm weather has damaged any rainfed crop. Generally, crop prospects are favorable at this time and rainfall from now until May is the single most important determinant factor of yield. In Syria, winter grains area is projected lower than last year. Rainfall at planting was late and well below average. In addition, the winter has been dry and warmer-than-normal. The continued drying trend is causing concern about yield prospects, especially for barley. About 40 percent of the wheat is irrigated, producing about 70 percent of the crop, while nearly all the barley is rainfed. Irrigation water is usually available for wheat since there are no other major crops competing for water during winter and spring. However, precipitation and return to normal temperatures is needed soon to prevent further yield loss.

Canada: The 1999/2000 winter wheat area is reportedly near the same level as last season. Planting conditions were normal and the crops experienced a mild winter with above normal precipitation.. Winterkill is expected to be minimal this season. Most of the winter wheat is grown in the Province of Ontario and comprises less than 5 percent of Canada's total wheat crop. Roughly 60 percent of the 1.4 million ton 1998/99 winter crop was soft white wheat and 40 percent was soft red wheat. About 400,000 tons is usually required for the domestic market, with the remainder exported. As most of the small grain crops are grown in the Prairie Provinces, spring rainfall is critical to provide soil moisture for the upcoming summer crops.

Mexico: Wheat area for 1999/2000 is projected to be slightly larger than last season with yield potential similar to 1998/99. Autumn rainfall was greater than last year, but

still below normal. Rainfall for virtually the entire country was less than 50 percent of normal from December through the end of February, while temperatures were at least one degree above normal for that period. Light rain in March aided the irrigated wheat, but reservoir levels in the Northwest (Sinaloa and Sonora) are still lower than last year due to continued below-normal rainfall. Reservoir levels in the Northwest are reported to be 20 percent of capacity at planting. Additional rainfall is needed in April for normal crop development and reservoir replenishment. Better than 90 percent of Mexico's annual wheat production comes from the fall/winter cycle, and the irrigated northwest region accounts for about 40 percent of the fall/winter production. Also, in the central plateau of Mexico where the summer crops are grown, reservoir levels have risen above the previous year and soil moisture is adequate due to plentiful summer and autumn rainfall.

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ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL: CORN AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

Corn Production

Globally, Brazil and Argentina rank third and sixth in corn production, respectively. Together they produce about 8 percent of the world's corn crop -- Argentina 2 percent and Brazil 6 percent.

Argentina: Corn production for 1998/99 is estimated at 14.5 million metric tons, down 4.9 million or 25 percent from last year's record (See attached charts). Corn yield is estimated at 5.47 tons per hectare, down from 6.10 tons per hectare last season, but still the second highest yield on record. Harvested area is estimated at 2.9 million hectares, 9 percent below last season. Argentine farmers shifted some area away from corn to soybeans and sunflowerseed this year in response to lower corn prices and dry weather at planting. The main corn producing provinces of Buenos Aires (48% of national production), Cordoba (20%), Santa Fe (17%), Entre Rios (6%), and La Pampa (2%) together account for about 93 percent of the crop. The crop is planted during September to November and harvested during the period March to May.

The early part of the growing season was characterized by dryness in southern Buenos Aires and parts of Cordoba. Timely rains in January and early February benefitted the crop through its critical tasseling stage. Warmer and drier weather conditions prevailed during late February through early March in parts of southern Buenos Aires and Cordoba. This was followed by normal to above normal rainfall from March into early April, resulting in some harvest delays.

Brazil: The 1998/99 corn crop is estimated at 32.5 million metric tons, up 1.6 million tons or 5 percent from last year. Corn yield is estimated at 2.58 tons per hectare, down 5 percent from 1997/98. This season, there was an increase in first-crop corn area as producers shifted away from soybeans. Lower soybean prices coupled with lower corn stocks, contributed to a switch from soybeans to corn. In addition, the El Niño-related drought reduced last year's "Safrinha" crop, resulting in higher relative prices for this year's corn crop.

Two crops of corn are cultivated: the first-crop is planted from October- December and harvested February-June. The first-crop accounts for 90 percent of total corn production; key states include: Parana (22%), Rio Grande do Sul (13%), Minas Gerais (13%), Santa Catarina (11%), Sao Paulo (9%), Goias (9%), Mato Grosso do Sul (3%), and Mato Grosso (3%). The second crop or "Safrinha" is planted from January-February and harvested during June-September. The "Safrinha" crop accounts for 10 percent of national corn production. Important "Safrinha" producing states include: Parana (38%), Sao Paulo (20%), Mato Grosso (15%), Mato Grosso do Sul (13%), and Goias (12%). (There is also a corn crop in the North/Northeast regions that is planted in February, but is statistically considered part of the first crop and accounts for about 10 percent of total-corn.)

Rainfall during the 1998/99 growing season has been generally favorable over much of Brazil with the exception of Rio Grande do Sul, where rainfall was deficient from

November through late March. Moderate showers (30-70 mm) during the early April alleviated dryness for the “Safrinha” crop now approaching the tasseling stage.

Soybean Production

The United States, Brazil and Argentina are ranked amongst the top three producers of soybean, respectively. Brazil accounts for 20 percent of world soybean production, whereas Argentina produces 12 percent. The level of technology utilized by soybean farmers in both countries are rapidly approaching those in the United States.

Argentina: Soybean production for 1998/99 is estimated at 18.7 million metric tons, down 0.5 million tons or 3 percent below last year as prospects for exceeding last year’s record crop of 19.2 million metric tons were reduced by untimely heavy rains. The early part of the growing season was characterized by dryness in southern Buenos Aires and parts of Cordoba. In January and early February, timely rains benefitted the soybean crop during its critical flowering stage. Yield potential was reduced as warmer, drier weather prevailed during late February through early March in parts of southern Buenos Aires and Cordoba. Episodes of heavy rainfall during March and early April caused some localized flooding and harvest delays.

The main soybean producing areas are located in the provinces of Santa Fe (41% of national production), Cordoba (29%), and Buenos Aires (21%). The main soybean crop is planted during November through December and harvested in April to May. The double-cropped (following wheat) soybean crop is planted in January and harvested between May

to June.

In Latin America, Argentina has taken the lead in the large scale adoption of transgenic Roundup-Ready (RR) soybean varieties produced by Monsanto. Roundup-Ready soybeans have been a factor in the expansion of yield in Argentina as more producers utilize an affective herbicide application. Cost per acre are typically less with roundup than with alternative herbicide treatments and this has been a factor in its quick adoption rates by growers.

Brazil: The 1998/99 soybean crop is estimated at 31.0 million metric tons, down 0.5 million metric tons or 2 percent from last year’s record crop. Rainfall during the 1998/99 growing season was generally favorable over much of Brazil with the exception of Rio Grande do Sul, where rainfall was deficient during November through late March. Dryness related yield reductions in Rio Grande do Sul are likely to be compensated by improved yield in other states.

Soybean area in Brazil has been steadily increasing over the years with the development of new roads and ports, as well as improvement of existing ones. The area of greatest area expansion is in the Cerrado or savanna region encompassing parts of Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goias, Distrito Federal, Rondonia, Bahia, Maranhao, Piaui, Tocantins and Minas Gerais. This expansion into the Cerrado regions, coupled with mechanized farming and increased fertilizer usage are contributing to a significant increase in average national yields. The main soybean producing states include: Parana (23% of national production), Mato Grosso (22%), Rio Grande do Sul (21%), Goias (11%), Mato

Grosso do Sul (7%) and Minas Gerais (4%). Soybeans in Brazil are generally planted during October through December, and harvested between March through May.

Brazilian farmers are adapting new technology at a very rapid rate. This season, about 2,000 hectares of Round-Up Ready (RR) soybean varieties developed by Monsanto were planted on a trial basis in the southern state of Rio

Grande do Sul, Goias and Mato Grosso do Sul. Also, genetically modified organism technology varieties of soybean are being developed by Brazilian organizations such as Novartis and the Ministry of Agriculture research facility known as EMBRAPA.

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CHART 1

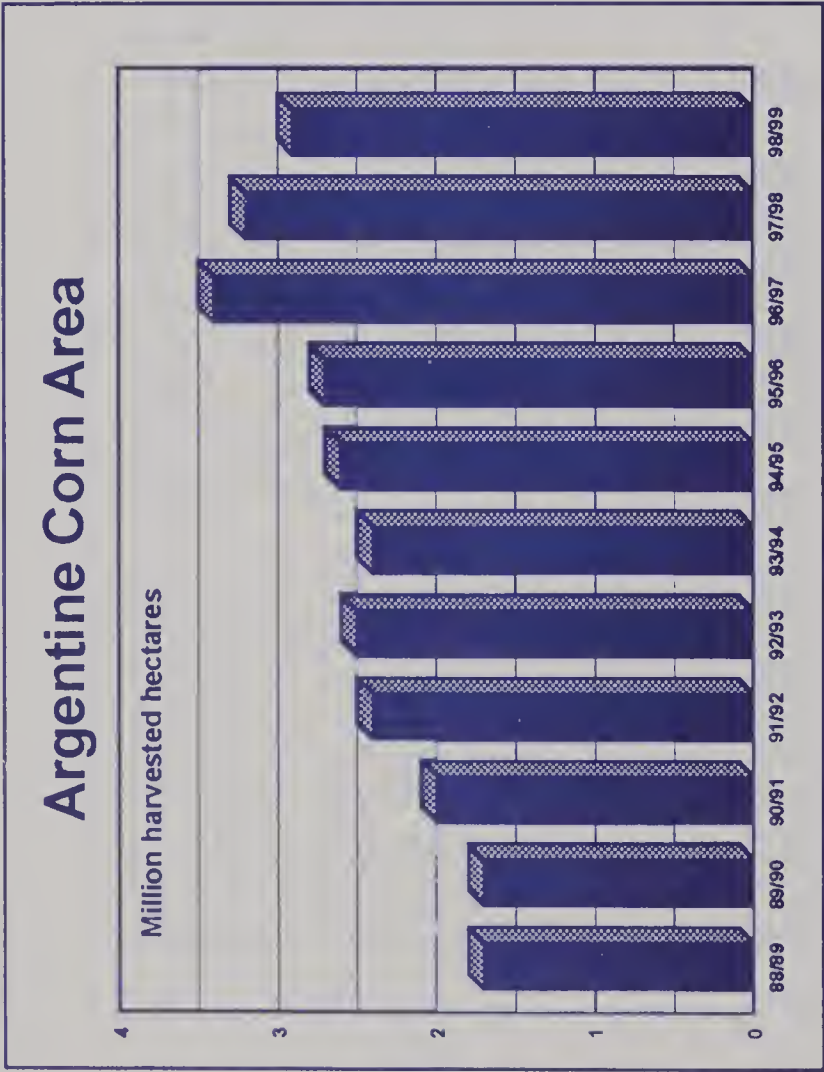


CHART 2

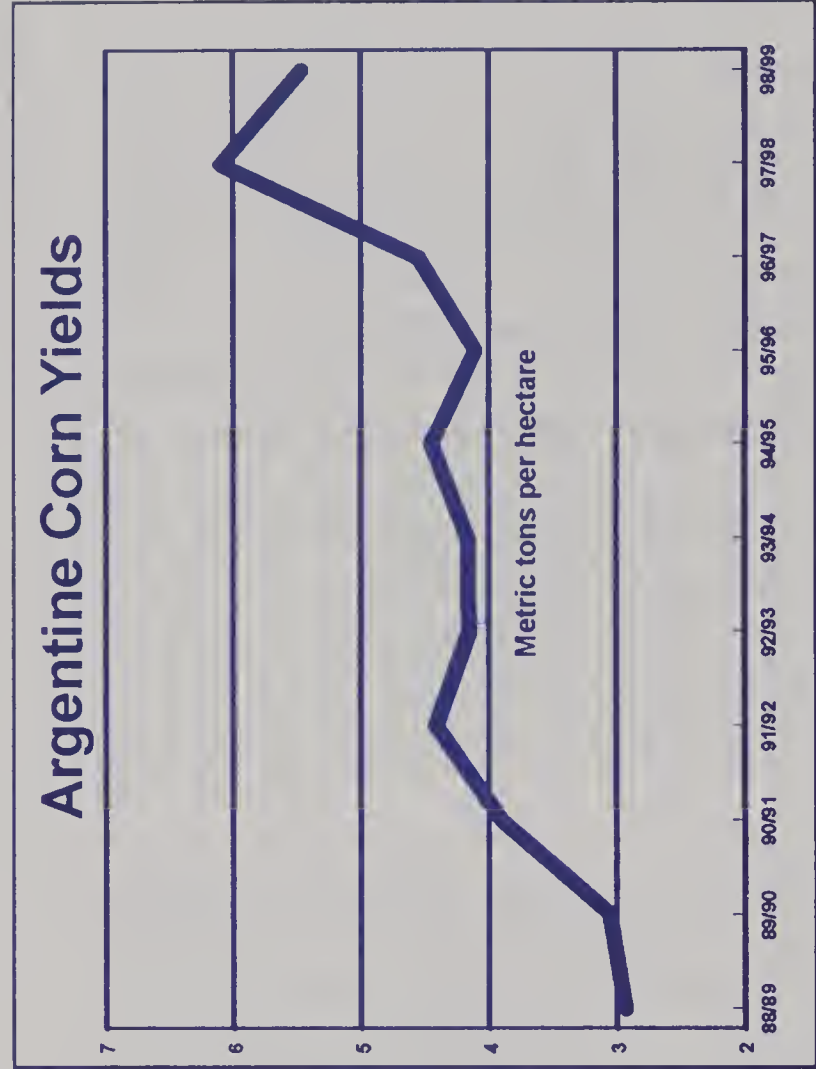


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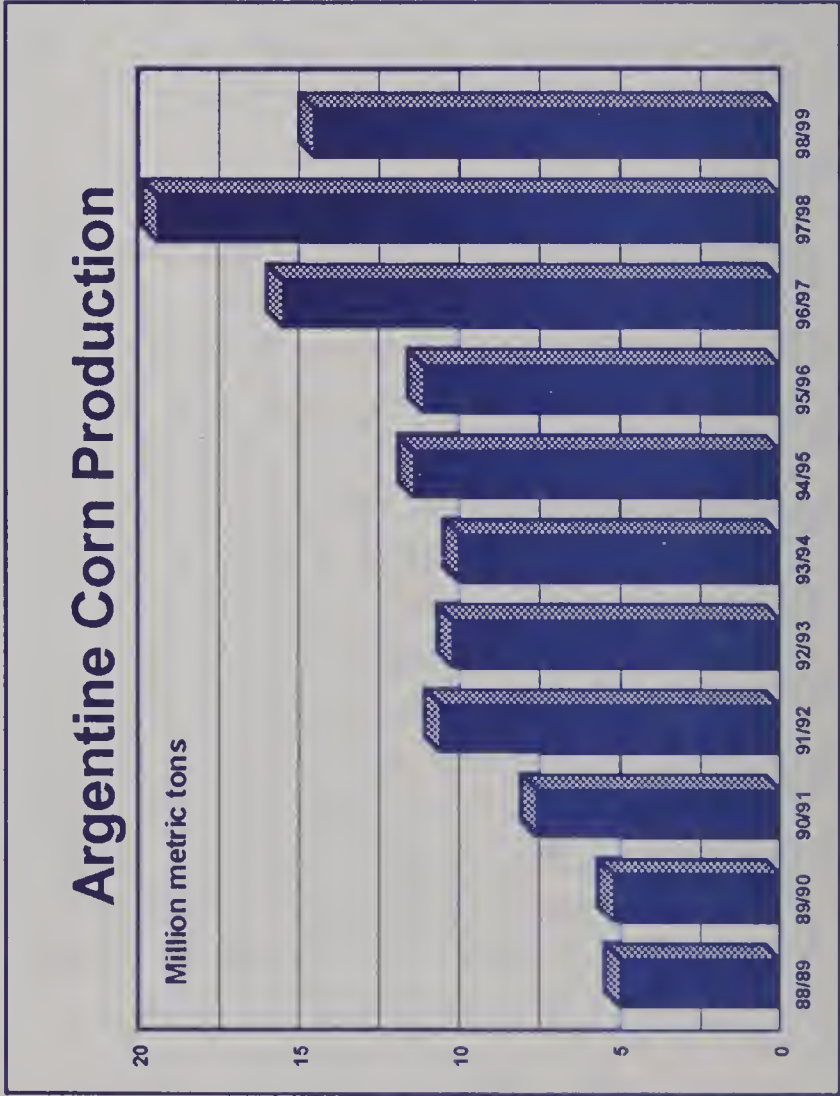


TABLE 20

Argentine Corn Harvested Area, Yield and Production Data

Marketing Year	Area Million Hectares	Yield MT/Ha	Production Million Tons
1988/89	1.7	2.94	5.0
1989/90	1.7	3.06	5.2
1990/91	2.0	3.90	7.6
1991/92	2.4	4.42	10.6
1992/93	2.5	4.16	10.2
1993/94	2.4	4.17	10.0
1994/95	2.6	4.45	11.4
1995/96	2.7	4.11	11.1
1996/97	3.4	4.56	15.5
1997/98	3.2	6.10	19.4
1998/99	2.9	5.47	14.5

CHART 4

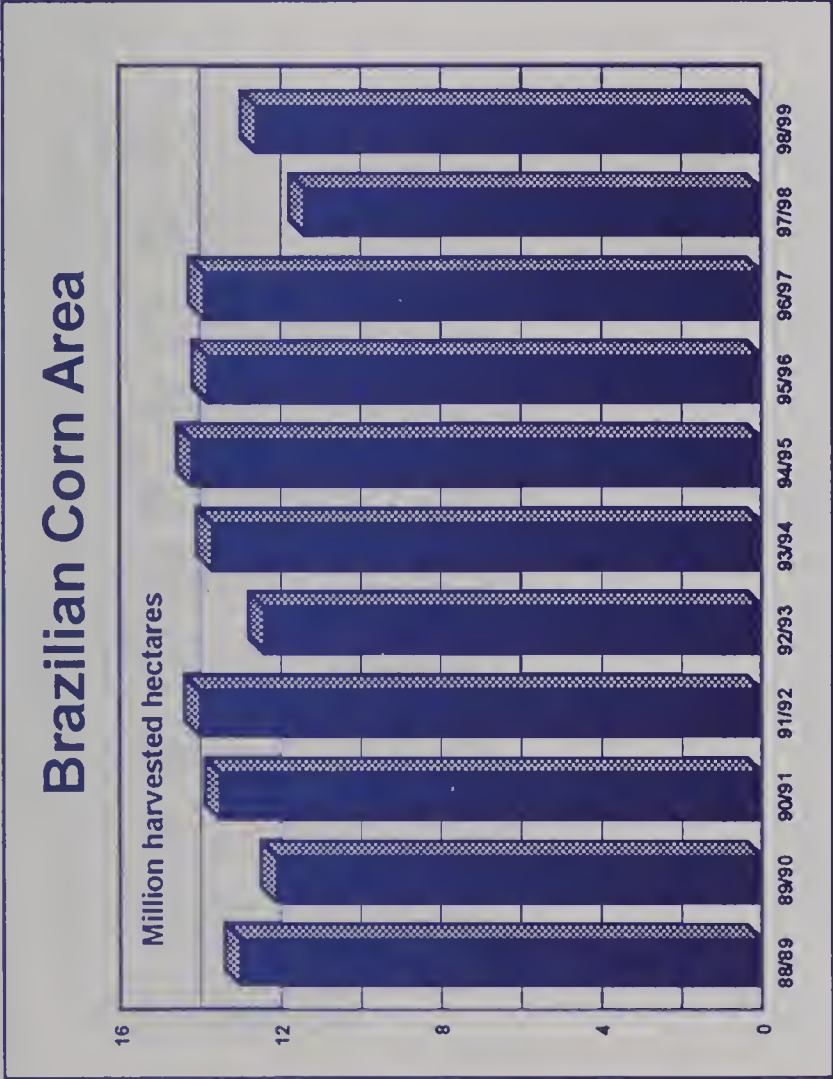


CHART 5

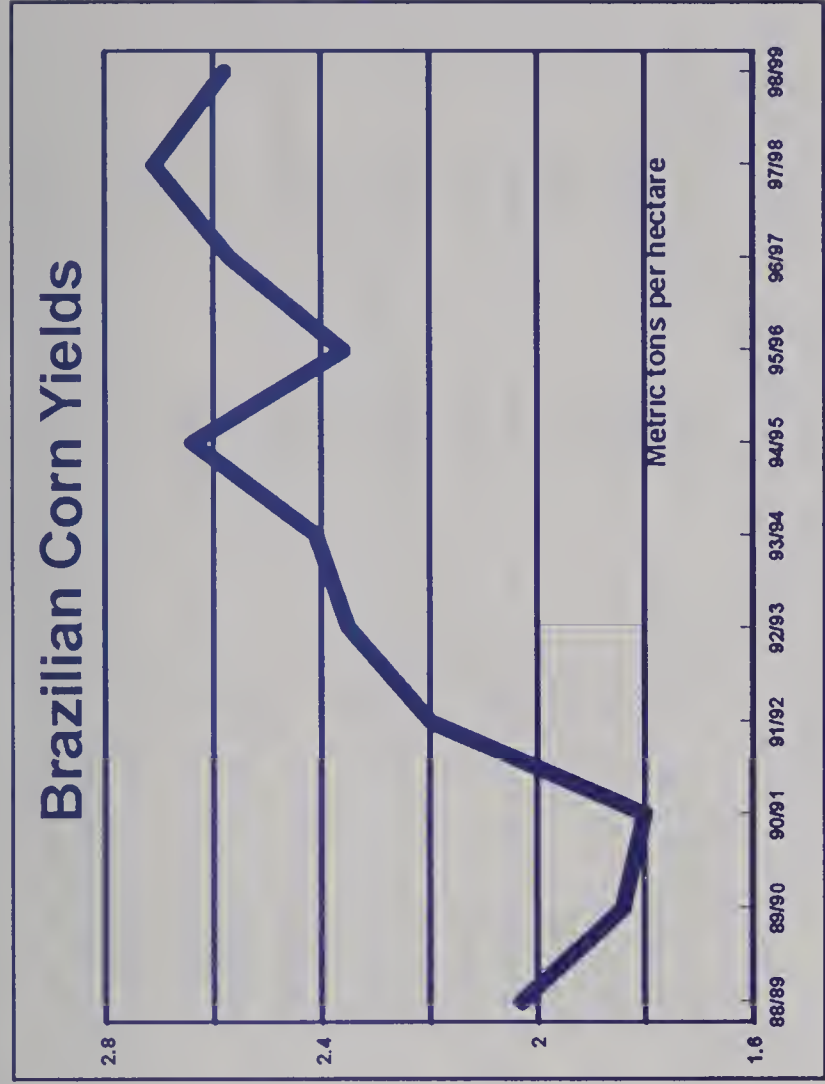


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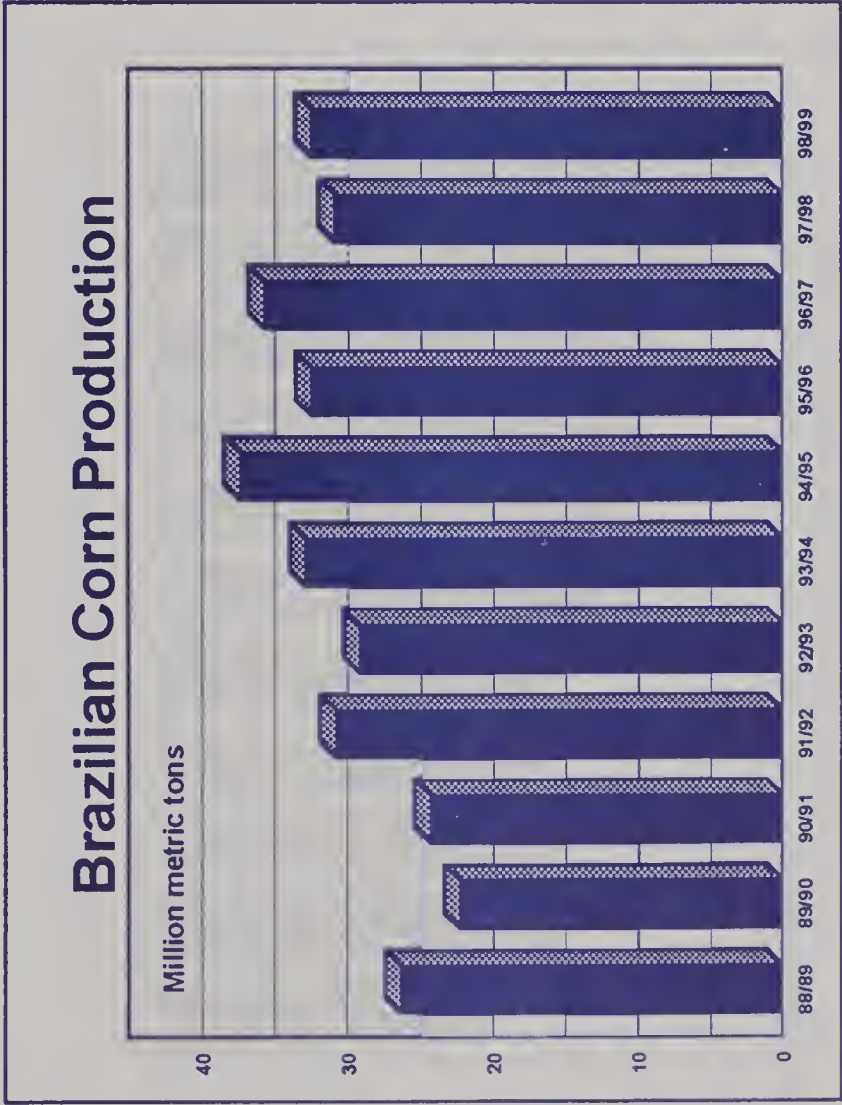


TABLE 21

Brazilian Corn			
Harvested Area, Yield and Production Data			
Marketing Year	Area MHa	Yield MT/Ha	Production (MMT)
1988/89	13.0	2.03	26.3
1989/90	12.1	1.84	22.3
1990/91	13.5	1.80	24.3
1991/92	14.0	2.20	30.8
1992/93	12.4	2.35	29.2
1993/94	13.7	2.41	32.9
1994/95	14.2	2.64	37.4
1995/96	13.8	2.36	32.5
1996/97	13.9	2.57	35.7
1997/98	11.4	2.71	30.9
1998/99	12.6	2.58	32.5

CHART 7

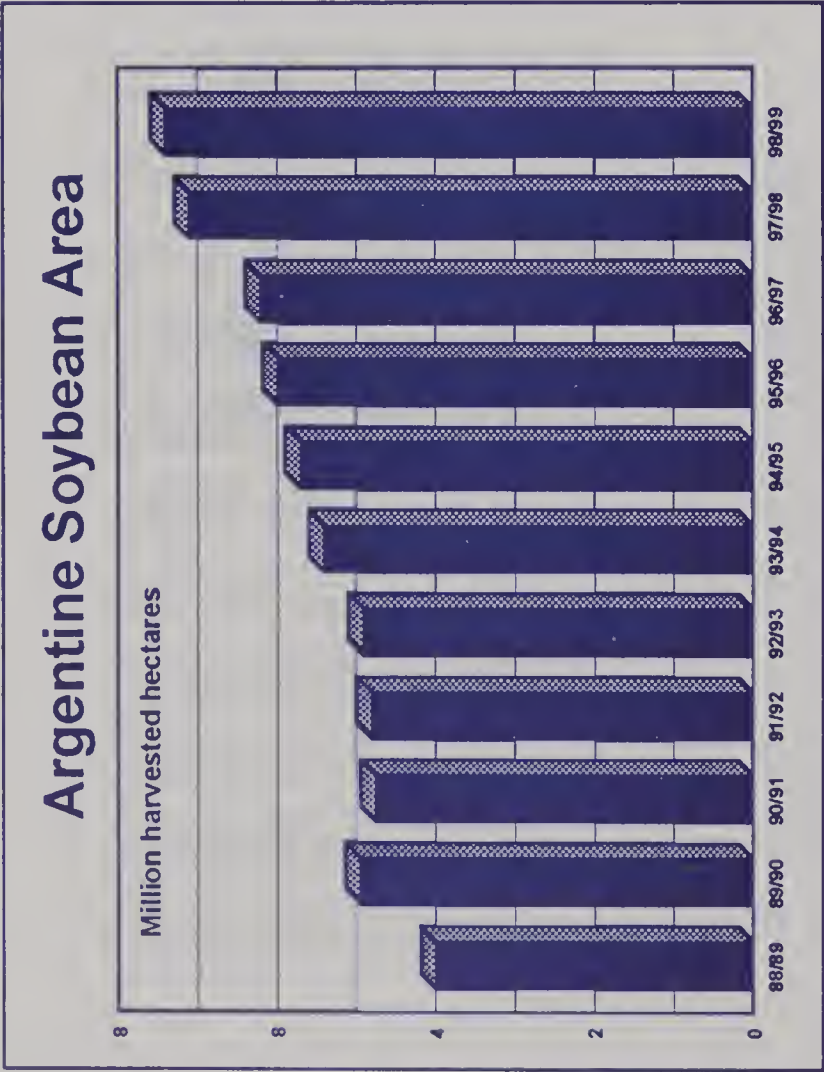


CHART 8

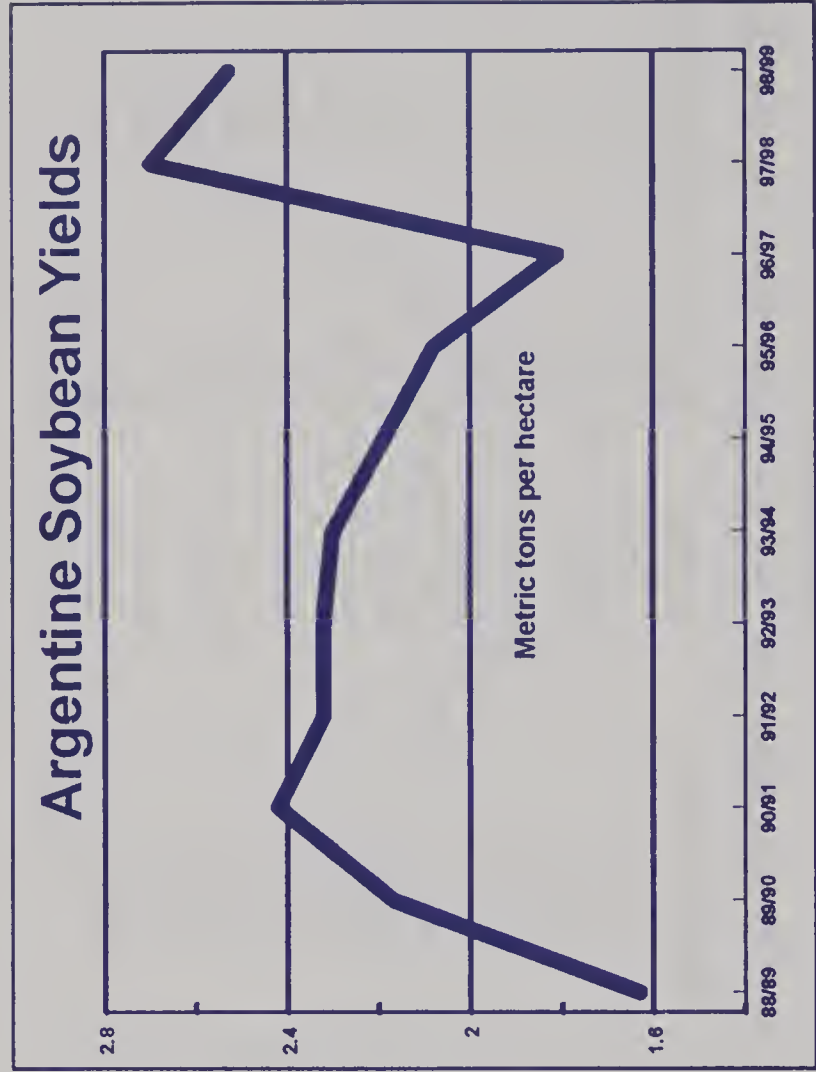


CHART 9

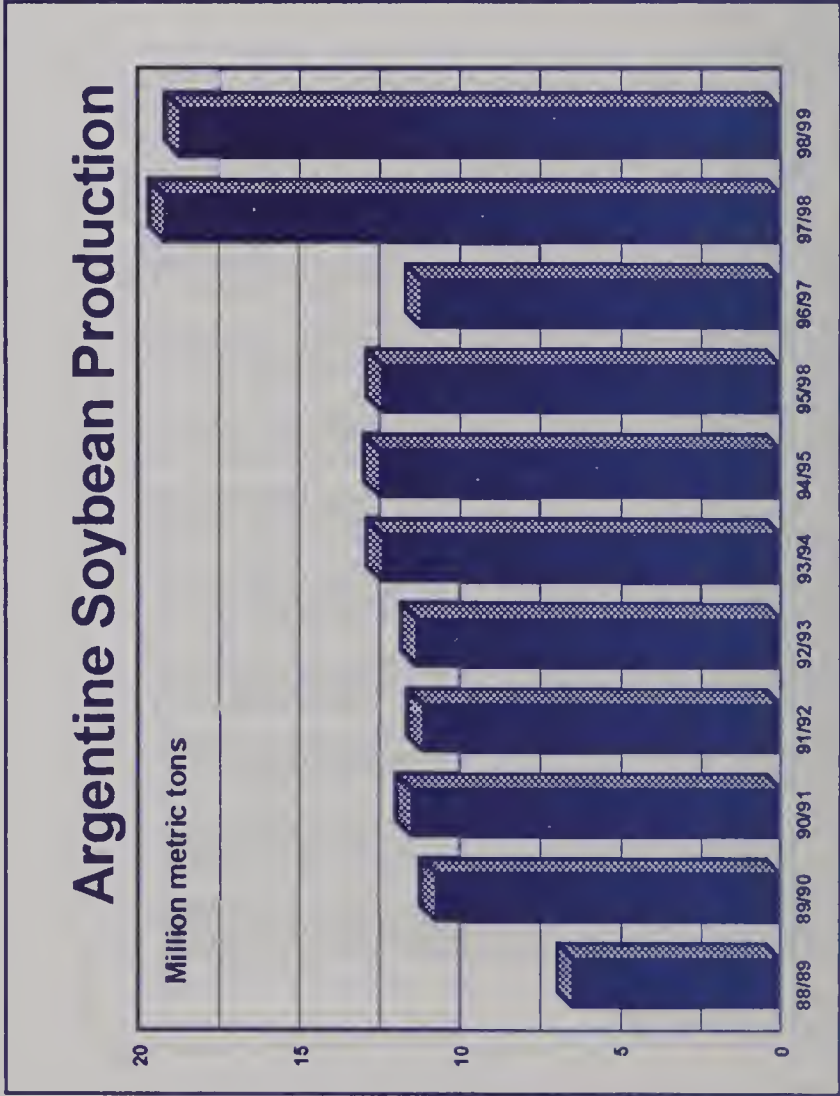


TABLE 22

Argentine Soybeans			
Harvested Area, Yield and Production Data			
Marketing Year	Area Million Hectares	Yield MT/Ha	Production Million Tons
1988/89	4.0	1.63	6.5
1989/90	5.0	2.17	10.8
1990/91	4.8	2.42	11.5
1991/92	4.8	2.32	11.2
1992/93	4.9	2.32	11.4
1993/94	5.4	2.30	12.4
1994/95	5.7	2.19	12.5
1995/96	6.0	2.08	12.4
1996/97	6.2	1.81	11.2
1997/98	7.1	2.70	19.2
1998/99	7.4	2.53	18.7

CHART 10



CHART 11

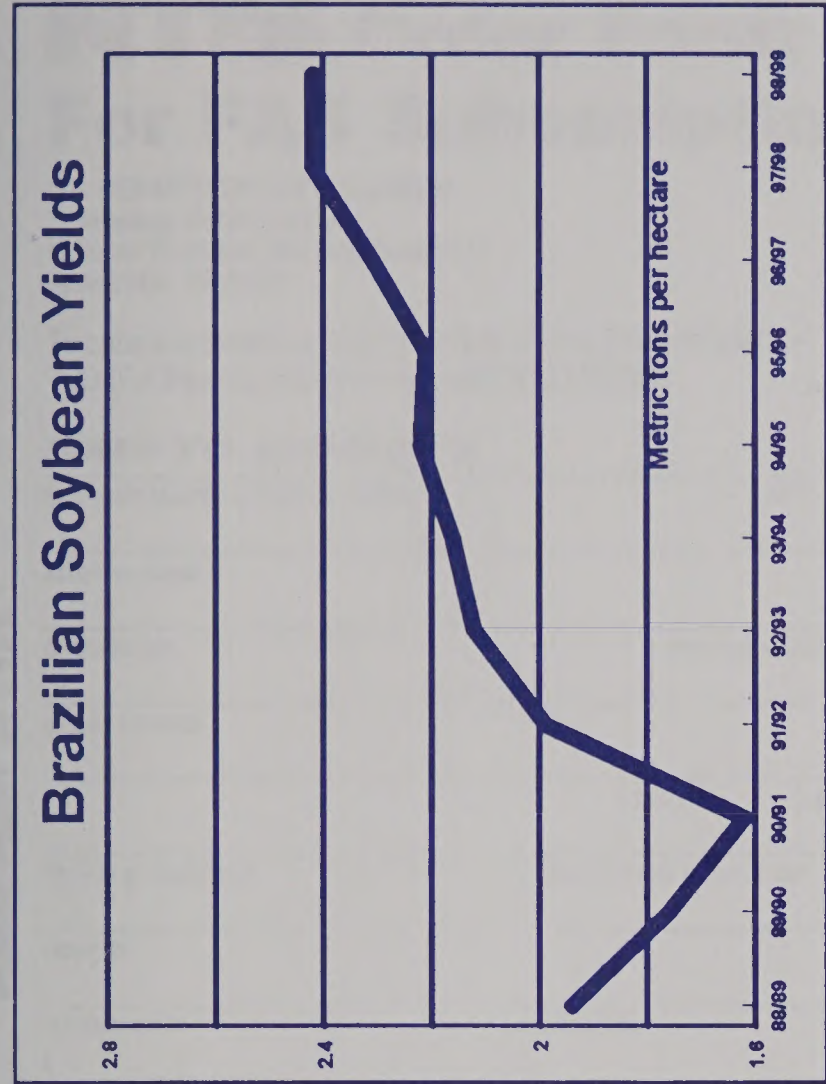


CHART 12

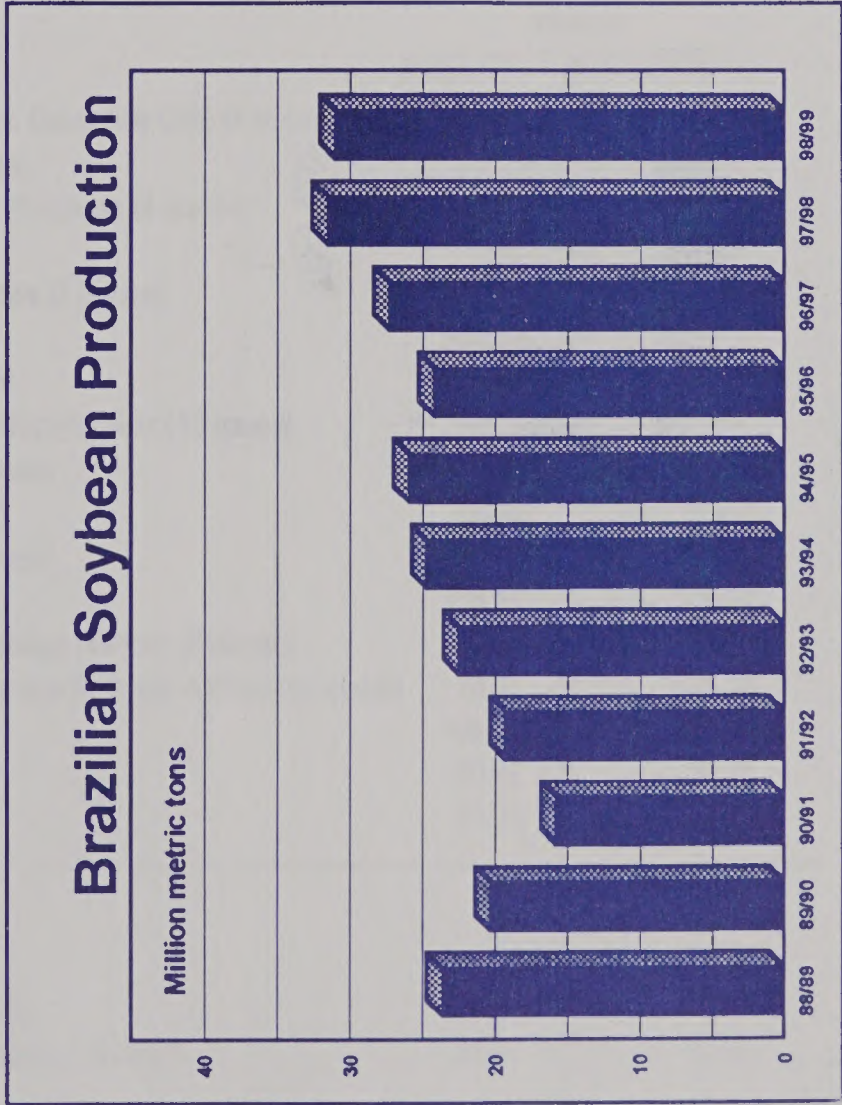


TABLE 23

Brazilian Soybeans			
Harvested Area, Yield and Production Data			
Marketing Year	Area MHa	Yield MT/Ha	Production (MMT)
1988/89	12.2	1.94	23.6
1989/90	11.6	1.76	20.3
1990/91	9.8	1.62	15.8
1991/92	9.7	1.99	19.3
1992/93	10.6	2.12	22.5
1993/94	11.4	2.16	24.7
1994/95	11.7	2.22	25.9
1995/96	11.0	2.21	24.2
1996/97	11.8	2.31	27.3
1997/98	13.0	2.42	31.5
1998/99	12.9	2.42	31.0

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